

CASTRO GETS LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

ANDREW HUGGINS
THOMAS J. SHEERAN
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The U.S. man convicted of holding three women captive in his house for over a decade and raping them repeatedly now faces life without parole plus 1,000 years. One of his victims told him, "'I will live on. You will die a little every day.'



Ariel Castro leaves the courtroom after the sentencing phase of his trial Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013, in Cleveland, Ohio.
(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

Ariel Castro, 53, blamed an addiction to pornography and told the court, "I'm not a monster."

Castro had pleaded guilty to 937 counts including aggravated murder, kidnapping, rape and assault in a case that horrified the U.S. He apologized Thursday, but he claimed that most of the sex with the women was consensual. He blamed his wife for making him abusive, and he even blamed the FBI, which had questioned his daughter during the search for the women but didn't question him.

"These people are trying to paint me as a monster," he said. "I'm not a monster. I'm sick."

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GLASNOST

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., expresses his dismay at Russian Vladimir Putin leader granting asylum to American secrets leaker Edward Snowden, at a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013. Defying the United States, Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum on Thursday, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport where he has been holed up for weeks in hopes of evading espionage charges back home.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

White House 'extremely disappointed' with Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) — A highly anticipated summit between U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin could be hurt by Moscow's decision to grant temporary asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, the White House signaled after weeks of pressuring for his return to face prosecution.

"We are extremely disappointed that the Russian

government would take this step despite our very clear and lawful requests in public and in private to have Mr. Snowden expelled," White House spokesman Jay Carney said Thursday. Obama is scheduled to go to Russia in September for the Group of 20 economic summit in St. Petersburg and stop in Moscow for one-on-one talks with Putin. Asked whether Obama would still travel to Mos-

cow, Carney said, "We are evaluating the utility of a summit."

Snowden left the transit zone of a Moscow airport and officially entered Russia after authorities granted him asylum for one year, his lawyer said Thursday.

The former intelligence contractor had been at the airport for more than a month since he arrived there from Hong Kong on June 23.

The U.S. had demanded that Russia send him home to face prosecution for revealing details about secret U.S. electronic surveillance programs.

But the two countries have no extradition treaty, and Putin dismissed the requests. Putin said he didn't want the Snowden issue to hamper relations with the U.S.

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Berlusconi conviction upheld; prison term sticks

**COLLEEN
FRANCES D'EMILIO**
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — For the first time in decades of criminal prosecution, a conviction against former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi finally stuck on Thursday, leaving the media mogul with a four-year prison sentence for tax fraud with all of his appeals exhausted. But it's highly unlikely the man who long was Italy's most powerful politician will actually serve out the sentence behind bars. And while upholding his tax fraud conviction, Italy's supreme court ordered another court to recalculate the duration of a ban on holding public office that lower courts had set at five years. That could potentially reduce the time out of the limelight that threatens to interrupt, if not end, Berlusconi's political career, already tarnished by a sex scandal. Berlusconi, who, at 76, has dominated Italian politics for 20 years, remained defiant, if shaken. In a nine-

BARRY

minute video address, he denounced the sentence "absolutely" baseless, saying it "deprives me of my freedom and political rights," and insisted he is the innocent victim of "an incredible series of accusations and trials that had nothing to do with reality." The three-time premier, dressed in his usual double-breasted suit and seated before the Italian and EU flags, swung between anger and emotion, at times his voice breaking. But he showed little signs of abandoning politics, pledging to revive Forza Italia, the movement he founded and which swept him into power as the unchallenged leader of Italy's conservatives. Judge Antonio Esposito, in reading the court's decision in the name of the Italian people, declared Berlusconi's conviction and prison term "irrevocable." But three years of his sentence will be shaved off as part of a general amnesty for crimes committed before 2006 aimed at easing prison crowding. And



Demonstrators celebrate outside Italy's highest court building minutes after the sentence confirming a four-year term for Italian former Premier Silvio Berlusconi for tax fraud in Rome, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013. It's the first time the billionaire media Mogul has definitely been convicted of any crime.
(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

elderly defendants usually can serve out their sentences under house confinement. What's more, he is expected to be able to choose to do a year of public service in lieu of confinement, a common option for first-time offenders with short

sentences.

The tensely awaited decision puts fresh pressure on Premier Enrico Letta's fragile coalition government, which relies on support from Berlusconi's forces and his own center-left Democratic Party to pass reforms needed to restore

market confidence in Italy and haul it out of recession. Letta appealed for calm, issuing a statement saying that "for the good of the country it is necessary now that a climate of serenity prevails."

One of Berlusconi's top lawmakers pledged to stay true to their leader's promise to keep the party in the government.

"The ruling will not impact on the fate of the government," said Nitto Palma, emerging from a huddle of party leaders at Berlusconi's Rome residence. "We will continue to support this government." Many were already writing Berlusconi's political obituary — although his exit from the political scene is unlikely to be quiet. "Berlusconi is dead," declared Beppe Grillo, the leader of the anti-establishment 5 Star Movement, on his blog. He compared the conviction to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 that helped bring down Soviet-bloc communism.

A Milan appeals court will now have to determine the length of a public office ban. Lower courts had put it at five years, but a state prosecutor recommended in his argument before the high Court of Cassation that it be lowered to three, citing conflicts in applicable sentencing laws.

Warsaw stops to honor 1944 anti-Nazi uprising



People hold burning flares to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the beginning of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013.

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Sirens wailed and traffic in downtown Warsaw stopped for a minute on Thursday to honor the thousands of people who died trying to liberate the

city from Germany's Nazi forces during World War II. This year some observances were shown live on Facebook for the first time. The Warsaw Rising Museum's Facebook page

(AP Photo/Alik Keplicz) showed people honoring their fallen heroes. On Aug. 1, 1944, thousands of residents — chiefly young people — began trying to free Warsaw from the Germans while the Soviet Red

Army advanced toward the city as it was pushing the Nazis out of Eastern Europe.

A few dozen thousand poorly armed fighters of Poland's clandestine Home Army fought for 63 days against the incomparably larger German land and air forces. Some 200,000 civilian residents and fighters were killed in the fighting, and the Germans razed the city.

Later, when Poland was under communist control, recognizing that historic event was forbidden, chiefly because the Home Army also had fought against Soviet rule.

But on Thursday surviving veterans, President Bronislaw Komorowski, Prime Minister Donald Tusk and other leaders laid wreaths at the monument in Warsaw to the fighters at Powazki cemetery, where many of them are buried.

Senate approves Samantha Power as U.N. ambassador

JEREMY W. PETERS

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WASHINGTON - The Senate on Thursday approved the nomination of Samantha Power as the next ambassador to the United Nations, a relatively smooth and quiet process that lacked the partisan acrimony of other recent confirmations.

Only 10 senators voted against Power. Eighty-seven supported her, including 33 Republicans.

"I don't believe anyone can question her considerable credentials," said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. "Certainly no one can question her willingness to speak her mind."

Though her past comments on the Israelis, Palestinians and "crimes" she once said the United States had committed might have indicated otherwise, her nomination was never particularly contentious. When the Foreign Relations Committee sent her name forward for a full vote in the Senate two weeks ago, only two Republicans opposed her.

The Irish-born Power, 42, a former war correspondent, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and scholar on genocide, has been a confidante of President Barack Obama's since he was a senator. She advised his 2008 presidential campaign but was forced out after calling Hillary Rodham Clinton, then Obama's primary opponent, "a monster."

She later quietly joined the Obama administration in the State Department, as a member of the National Security Council. The Senate approved one more nomination Thursday, confirming Raymond T. Chen as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; the vote was 97-0. When the Senate returns next month, a more divisive set of judicial nominees to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia will have to be dealt with. □

Ariel Castro gets life term in kidnapping of 3 women

Continued from Front

A deal struck with prosecutors last week spared him from a possible death sentence for beating and starving a pregnant victim until she miscarried.

The women disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004 when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old. They escaped May 6 when one of them, Amanda Berry, broke out part of the door to Castro's house and yelled to neighbors for help.

Castro said Thursday he knows what he did was wrong, but that he's not a violent person and that his captives asked for sex and weren't tortured.

Judge Michael Russo dismissed Castro's claims that the women lived a happy life with him.

"I'm not sure there's anyone in America that would agree with you," he said.

The women described horrific conditions in the home, and prosecutors displayed photos that gave a first glimpse inside the rooms where they lived. In one room, the window was boarded shut, and the door knobs had been removed and replaced with multiple locks.

"You took 11 years of my life away, and I have got it back," Michelle Knight told Castro on Thursday. "I

spent 11 years in hell. Now you're hell is just beginning. I will overcome all this has happened, but you will face hell for eternity."

Knight said she missed her young son every day of her captivity.

Knight, 32, did not face Castro as she spoke, but he glanced toward her sev-

ating a makeshift alarm system and chaining the women inside bolted bedrooms.

Bedroom windows were boarded shut from the inside with heavy closet doors and doorknobs had been removed and replaced with multiple locks, Burke said. The house was

cord wrapped around her neck.

A police officer who helped rescue the women said one was reluctant to come out of her room even when she saw the officers.

"They were just shouting out a lot of things," said police officer Barb Johnson.



Michelle Knight speaks during the sentencing phase for Ariel Castro Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013, in Cleveland. Castro, a onetime school bus driver was sentenced to life in prison without parole plus 1,000 years for kidnapping three women and subjecting them to years of sexual and physical abuse.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

eral times. She was the first woman he abducted in 2002 after he lured her into his house with the promise of a puppy for her son.

As Castro was led away, Knight watched, smiling.

FBI agent Andrew Burke said Castro turned his house into a prison by cre-

divided in ways to make it more secure and to hide the existence of rooms, he said.

One woman had a motorcycle helmet placed on her head while chained in the basement; later, when she tried to escape, she had a vacuum cleaner

She described the women as thin, pale and scared.

Berry had a baby fathered by Castro. Knight delivered the baby on Christmas Day 2006 in the basement under threat of death from Castro, using a children's pool to avoid creating a mess. □

White House 'extremely disappointed' with Russia

Continued from Front

Carney said the U.S. was not told ahead of time of Russia's decision to grant temporary asylum.

Carney did not speculate about what steps, if any, the U.S. might take in response. He noted the complicated and wide-ranging relationship between the two countries and suggested the U.S. is reluctant to let Snowden become the source of further deterioration.

The U.S. and Russia already disagree on many issues, including the civil war in Syria, where Moscow is one

of Syrian President Bashar Assad's key supporters. The U.S. supports anti-Assad rebel forces.

There was a strong reaction from some lawmakers Thursday.

"Russia's action today is a disgrace and a deliberate effort to embarrass the United States. It is a slap in the face of all Americans," Republican Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham said in a joint statement. "Now is the time to fundamentally rethink our relationship with Putin's Russia."

The senators suggested expanding U.S. sanctions against Russians accused of human rights violations,

completing U.S. missile defense programs based in Europe and moving quickly on another round of NATO expansion to include the Republic of Georgia.

A top Democrat, Sen. Chuck Schumer, said Obama should recommend moving the G-20 summit.

Long before Thursday's decision, some lawmakers even suggested a U.S. boycott of the Winter Olympics taking place next year in Sochi, Russia.

Andrew Weiss, a former director of Russian affairs in the Clinton administration, said the Russians had sought an Obama visit so

they could portray Putin as an important player on the world stage.

But he said it now seems "all but inevitable" that Obama will have to cancel at least part of his trip to Russia.

Jeffery Mankoff, deputy director and fellow with the Russia and Eurasia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the meeting should go on because of the other important issues on the table. "All of these things are kind of sitting there in the bilateral relationship and really need a top-level push to get anywhere," Mankoff said. □

In Capitol Hill sit-in: Immigration advocacy leaders arrested

JULIA PRESTON

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WASHINGTON - With lawmakers returning to face their constituents over the August recess, 41 immigration rights leaders held a noisy but peaceful sit-in and got arrested Thursday on Capitol Hill in an escalation of their tactics.

Just after midday, the protesters filed onto Independence Avenue near the Capitol and sat in the street, unfurling a banner that said "Keep Our Families Together, Immigrants

migrants had "calves like cantaloupes" from running drugs across the desert.

Among those arrested at the sit-in were labor leaders - including Eliseo Medina, secretary treasurer of the Service Employees International Union; Arlene Holt-Baker, a vice president of the AFL-CIO; and Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America - as well as Deepak Bhargava, Angélica Salas, Gustavo Torres, Petra Falcón and other immigrants' rights advocates

representatives because it had not taken any action on an immigration bill by an Aug. 1 deadline the groups had announced this year. Organizers said the action represented the beginning of a campaign at town halls, rallies, vigils and other events in Republican districts during the recess which would extend into the fall, as the House considers whether to vote on any bill that would give legal status to immigrants here illegally.

The Senate passed a broad



Eliseo Medina, center, with the Service Employees International Union, is handcuffed after blocking Independence Avenue Southeast with other activists during a protest near the Capitol in Washington, Aug. 1, 2013. The protesters were arrested by Capitol Police shortly after blocking the road. (T.J. Kirkpatrick/The New York Times)

tion Reform Now." With a crowd of several hundred cheering from the sidewalk and calling for "citizenship now," the protesters were handcuffed one by one and whisked away in police vehicles.

Meanwhile, young immigrants delivered cantaloupes to the offices of more than 200 House lawmakers who voted in June to halt an Obama administration program that provides reprieves from deportation for some young people here illegally. That vote was on an amendment by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who created a stir last week when he said that many young im-

migrants had "calves like cantaloupes" from running drugs across the desert. It was the first time during the immigration debate this year that so many leaders had opted for civil disobedience.

"We have marched, we have rallied, we have prayed, we have written, we have called and now it is time to take it up another notch," Bhargava said just before his arrest. "We think it is important that the Republican leadership understand the intensity of the feeling in the community about the need for a vote on citizenship."

The protesters said they were expressing frustration to the Republican-controlled House of Rep-

resentatives because it had not taken any action on an immigration bill by an Aug. 1 deadline the groups had announced this year. Organizers said the action represented the beginning of a campaign at town halls, rallies, vigils and other events in Republican districts during the recess which would extend into the fall, as the House considers whether to vote on any bill that would give legal status to immigrants here illegally. The Senate passed a broad bill in June that offers a 13-year path to citizenship for 11 million unauthorized immigrants already in the country. House leaders have said they will not take up that bill, and House Republicans are sharply divided over whether to move on any legalization, which many conservatives reject as amnesty for lawbreakers. As House members head to their districts, supporters of an overhaul said they would be following them, to bring pressure and to work to outdo any mobilization from groups against an amnesty. Several of those groups have announced plans for activities this month too. □

Despite boom, higher costs pushing Big Oil into a slump

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New troves of oil have been found all over the globe, and oil companies are taking in around \$100 for every barrel they produce. But these seemingly prosperous conditions aren't doing much for Big Oil: Profit and production at the world's largest oil companies are slumping badly. Exxon Mobil, Shell and BP all posted disappointing earnings this week. Chevron is expected to post a profit decline Friday. All of them face the same problem: The cost to get newfound oil from remote locations and tightly packed rock is high and rising. And it takes years and billions of dollars to get big new production projects up and running. The higher extraction costs could translate to higher oil and gasoline prices for consumers.

Strong production growth at an oil company can offset higher operating costs, "but when production is flat or declining it's a big hit," says Brian Youngberg, an analyst at Edward Jones. "Even though oil prices are \$100 or higher, the returns on investment aren't what they used to be."

The new oil being found and produced is in ultra-deep ocean waters, in sands that must be heated to release the hydrocarbons, or trapped in shale or other tight rock that requires constant drilling to keep production steady. That makes this new oil far more expensive to get out of the ground than what's known as conventional oil — large pools of oil and gas in relatively easy-to-drill locations.

Those reserves have always been hard to find, but now they are all but gone outside of the Middle East. David Vaucher, who tracks oil production operating costs at IHS CERA, says oil-field operation costs are now at a record high. "The fields are more remote and the resource conditions are more extreme," he says. New oil projects in the U.S.

and Canada, where production is growing faster than anywhere in the world, require high oil prices to be profitable, Vaucher says.

In order to make an industry average return, a new production project in the Canadian oil sands requires a price of \$81 per barrel. For an onshore U.S. field, it's \$70 per barrel, but it ranges from \$45 to \$95 per barrel, depending on the rate of oil flow. In the Gulf of Mexico, it's \$63. In the Middle East, just \$23 per barrel.

Many oil analysts predict that relatively weak growth in world oil demand coupled with rising production from newfound fields will make for flat or lower oil prices in the years to come. But if big oil companies can't earn strong profits at today's oil prices, it may mean prices will have to rise higher to convince them it's worth the risk to continue to aggressively explore new fields. If they worry they can't make enough money, they'll cut back.

Oswald Clint, an analyst at Bernstein Research, said in a recent report that oil prices can hold steady and even rise into 2015. Among his reasons: The growth of U.S. oil production is slowing because the best new American fields have been tapped, and the number of rigs probing new fields has flattened out.

One of the more difficult places for Big Oil lately has been onshore in the U.S., which is in the midst of a historic oil boom being driven by the new discoveries.

American production is now rising faster than any time since the 1950s, putting the nation on track to become the world's biggest oil producer.

But major oil companies such as Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Royal Dutch Shell and BP were late to get into the U.S. shale oil game, and therefore had to pay high prices to acquire promising land. And the drilling is hugely expensive, too. □

New York woman killed in 17-story fall from balcony



Onlookers above a 17th-floor balcony railing where a woman fell to her death, in New York, Aug. 1, 2013. The 35-year-old victim was sitting on the railing of her Midtown apartment when it apparently buckled, a friend there told officials Thursday.

(Michael Appleton/The New York Times)

J. DAVID GOODMAN

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NEW YORK - It was the kind of temperate summer night that draws apartment-dwellers outside to sidewalk restaurants or rooftop bars or balconies high above the street. That is where Jennifer Rosoff was shortly before 1 a.m. Thursday, retiring to her 17th-floor balcony in Midtown with a man she had just met for a first date. As they talked, she casually hoisted herself atop the wide metal railing, cigarette in hand.

The conversation shifted. Perhaps she should be more careful, he suggested. It is not a problem, she assured him. She had done

this many times before.

Then Rosoff was gone.

She fell 140 feet to the construction scaffolding at the base of the building, at 400 E. 57th St., and died from the impact. The police said there was no appearance of foul play; the railing, bent down hard at the corner, was still evident Thursday, providing a fearful sight for passers-by.

The death of Rosoff, 35, whom a friend described as "an A-player" in the competitive world of media advertising sales, immediately rippled across cellphones and inboxes of distraught friends and colleagues.

It also brought forth the

perilous possibilities and primal fears embedded in New York. The jut of an apartment balcony hanging over cavernous streets. The rush of traffic. The oncoming subway train.

"To be in a densely crowded, fast-paced vertical city is to experience all kinds of vulnerabilities," said Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at New York University whose areas of interest include urban studies and risk. "We inure ourselves against almost all of them because we do it so often. People sit on ledges all the time and nothing happens to them, tiptoe across the yellow line at the subway stop without con-

sequences and jaywalk without being hit by a bus." The Department of Buildings immediately issued an order barring all other residents of the building from going onto their balconies, which the department characterized as "imminently perilous to life." A department spokeswoman said inspectors were still investigating the reason for the collapse.

"Right now, detectives believe that she was sitting on a defective balcony railing, causing her to fall to her death," Paul J. Browne, the chief spokesman for the Police Department, said.

The 20-story rental apartment building was bought recently by Stonehenge, a company that owns and manages properties

around Manhattan. Stonehenge is doing extensive renovations, primarily on the inside of the building, the Department of Buildings said.

After a deadly fall from a Midtown balcony in 2010, the Buildings Department began an extensive round of safety reviews and found that hundreds of building owners had failed to file required inspection reports on their balconies. Residents of more than a dozen buildings were then ordered to stop using their balconies because of safety concerns.

That round of intensive scrutiny by the department followed the death of Connor Donohue, 24, who fell from a 24th-floor balcony in March 2010. □

Threat closes US embassies in Muslim world

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is shuttering its embassies and consulates throughout the Muslim world on Sunday after receiving an unspecified threat, officials said.

State Department officials said Thursday that they were taking action out of an "abundance of caution."

Spokeswoman Marie Harf cited information indicating a threat to U.S. facilities overseas and said some

diplomatic offices may stay closed for more than a day. Other U.S. officials said the threat was in the Muslim world, where Sunday is a workday. American diplomatic missions in Europe, Latin America and many other places are closed on Sunday.

Those officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

The State Department issued a major warning last year informing American

diplomatic facilities across the Muslim world about potential violence connected to the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Dozens of American installations were besieged by protest over an anti-Islam video made by an American resident.

In Benghazi, Libya, the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans were killed when militants assaulted a diplomatic post. The administration no longer says that attack was related to the demonstrations. □

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'Fabulous Fab' found liable in SEC case

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former Goldman Sachs trader who earned the nickname "Fabulous Fab" was found liable Thursday in a fraud case brought by U.S. regulators in response to the 2007 mortgage crisis that helped push the country into recession.

A jury reached the verdict at the civil trial in Manhattan federal court of Fabrice Tourre — a French-born Stanford graduate

vestment.

The maneuver ended up making \$1 billion for the hedge fund and its wealthy president, John A. Paulson, and millions of dollars in fees for Goldman. The SEC also sought to show that it helped earn Tourre a bonus that boosted his salary to \$1.7 million in 2007.

On the witness stand, the SEC lawyers confronted Tourre with a January 2007 email it said deliberately misled another institutional investor about Paulson's

"Only if you close your eyes to the facts, you can find Mr. Tourre not liable for his actions," the SEC lawyer said.

Tourre's attorney, John Coffey, countered that the government had "unjustly accused him of wrongdoing."

Coffey urged jurors to put the investment's failure in perspective, noting that all similarly packaged securities "went off the cliff as well" after 2007.

The civil case had been



Former Goldman Sachs vice president Fabrice Tourre, center, leaves Manhattan federal court with his attorneys, in New York, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013. Tourre, who earned the nickname "Fabulous Fab," was found liable Thursday in a fraud case brought by federal regulators in response to the 2007 mortgage crisis that helped push the country into recession.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

described by Securities and Exchange Commission lawyers as the face of "Wall Street greed." Tourre's attorneys portrayed him as a scapegoat in a downturn caused by larger economic forces. Tourre, 34, found liable in six of seven SEC fraud claims. He faces potential fines and a possible ban from the financial industry. The exact punishment will be determined at a future proceeding.

The SEC had accused Tourre of misleading institutional investors about subprime mortgage securities that he knew were doomed to fail, setting the stage for a valued Goldman hedge fund client, Paulson & Co. Inc., to secretly bet against the in-

vestment called Abacus 2007-AC1.

Asked repeatedly if the information in the email was "false," Tourre responded, "It was not accurate." He added: "I wasn't trying to confuse anybody; it just wasn't accurate at the time."

SEC lawyer Matthew Martens said, "We're obviously gratified by the jury's verdict and appreciate their hard work." There was no immediate response from the defense.

In closing arguments, Martens called Tourre's testimony "surreal, imaginary, unreal, dreamlike" and told jurors that the defendant wanted them "to live in his imaginary land ... to live in a fantasy world."

called the most significant legal action related to the mortgage securities meltdown, but it lacked the drama and high stakes of white-collar criminal cases. Much of the testimony was devoted to the intricacies of synthetic collateralized debt obligations, or CDOs — a complex type of investment central to the case. Some of the testimony focused on a personal email Tourre sent to his girlfriend in France. The SEC lawyers said the mis-sive proved the hubris of a man at the center of a massive fraud, while the defense claimed was "an old-fashioned love letter" penned by a young trader who was full of self-doubt and angst over upheaval in the financial world. □



Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) next to a statue of Rosa Parks during an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington at National Statuary Hall in Washington, July 31, 2013.
(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

On anniversary of '63 March, U.S. finds notes of struggles

ASHLEY SOUTHALL

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Nearly 50 years after John Lewis stood among the "Big Six" civil rights leaders before throngs of mostly African-American demonstrators, gathered on the National Mall for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, he stood in the Capitol on Wednesday and declared the work of the movement unfinished. At 23, Lewis was the newly elected president of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the youngest speaker at the historic march, which took place Aug. 28, 1963. Now, at 73, he is a Democratic congressman from Georgia and the last surviving speaker from the march.

"We have come a distance since that day," Lewis said Wednesday. "But many of the issues that gave rise to that march are still pressing needs in our society today: violence, poverty, hunger, long-term unemployment, homelessness, voting rights and the need to protect human dignity."

Congress is scheduled to be in recess on the anniversary of the march, which comes as President Barack Obama is traveling the country to promote his economic agenda focused on job creation.

The crowd on the National Mall in 1963 swelled to about 250,000 people, who

gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial to draw attention to economic inequality. It is most remembered as the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Remembering King's call to act with "the fierce urgency of now," Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democratic minority leader, noted that the march had propelled the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as well as broader social and economic progress. Over the next 50 years, African-Americans increased their presence in the House to 43 members from five and established the influential Congressional Black Caucus.

"We have kept moving forward," Pelosi said. "Each step is a sign of progress, and we have a moral obligation to press on."

But Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic majority leader in the Senate, warned that the progress made during and since the civil rights movement was "under siege."

Civil rights groups plan to observe the 50th anniversary with a march Aug. 24 from the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial, and another Aug. 28 that will stop at the Justice and Labor Department buildings. □



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US Financial Front:

American unemployment claims fall to 326K, 5 1/2-year low

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell 19,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 326,000, the fewest since January 2008. The decline shows the job market continues to strengthen. The Labor Department said Thursday that the less volatile four-week average slid 4,500 to 345,750. The July figures are typically volatile as the government adjusts for seasonal layoffs in the auto industry.

Still, the trend in weekly unemployment claims in recent months has been positive. Applications, which are a proxy for layoffs, have fallen more than 12 percent this year. That's co-

incided with average job growth of 202,000 a month since January, up from an average of 180,000 in the previous six months.

On Friday, the government reports on July job growth and unemployment. Analysts forecast 183,000 jobs were added last month, and the unemployment rate fell to 7.5 percent from 7.6 percent in June.

A private survey released Wednesday showed surprising strength in the job market. The payroll company ADP said that companies created 200,000 jobs in July, the most for that survey since December. And it revised up its estimate of the number of jobs the private sector created in June to 198,000 from 188,000.

The ADP report is derived

from payroll data and tracks private employment. It does not report government hiring. ADP's survey has diverged at times from

the U.S. Labor Department's more comprehensive monthly jobs report.

Hiring has remained solid despite a weak economy.



Susan Paul, who has recently completed a Masters program in occupational therapy, shakes hands with a recruiter at a healthcare job fair in New York. Fewer Americans sought unemployment aid last week, reducing the average number of weekly applications last month to a five-year low.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that the economy grew at a 1.7 percent annual rate from April through June. That's better than the revised 1.1 percent growth rate from January through March. But it's still too sluggish to rapidly lower unemployment. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday downgraded its assessment of the economy's strength, saying it is growing only modestly. The Fed expects growth will pick up in the second half of the year. But the cautious message may signal that the central bank is not ready to slow its bond purchases, which have helped push long-term interest rates down and encourage more borrowing and spending. □

US factories rebound with best growth in 2 years

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factories revved up production, hired more workers and received a surge of new orders in July, helping them expand at the fastest pace in two years. The gains suggest manufacturing may be rebounding and could provide a spark to economic growth. The Institute for Supply Management said Thursday that its index of factory activity jumped to 55.4 in July, up from 50.9 in June. A reading above 50 indicates growth. The ISM is a trade group of purchasing managers.

A gauge of production soared 11.6 points to 65, the highest reading since May 2004. And a measure of hiring at factories rose to its best level in a year — the latest of several encourag-

ing signs ahead of Friday's July employment report.

"The report builds the case for a second-half speed up in U.S. industrial production," said Jonathan Basile, an economist at Credit Suisse.

Stronger growth at U.S. factories could aid a sluggish economy that has registered tepid growth over the past three quarters. And it could provide crucial support to a job market that has begun to accelerate but has added mostly lower-paying service jobs. Businesses are placing more orders that are likely to be filled in the next few months. Steady gains in new-home sales and construction are supporting strong growth in industries such as wood products, furniture, and electrical equipment and appliances. And healthy auto sales

are buoying growth in the production of metal parts and components.

Auto companies reported healthy sales gains for July

on Thursday. Ford, Chrysler and Nissan each saw sales grow 11 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

Bradley Holcomb, chair of the ISM's survey committee, said production will likely fall back a bit after its big jump in July. □



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Morsi supporters defy police warnings to disperse

MAGGIE MICHAEL
SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press
CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military-backed government offered protection Thursday to supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi who end their two sit-ins — widely seen as a first step toward dispersing the vigils on opposite sides of Cairo.

But the protesters responded defiantly: "Over our dead bodies!"

The standoff underscored the ongoing political crisis since the armed forces toppled Egypt's first democratically elected leader on July 3: thousands in the streets demanding Morsi's reinstatement, a government unable to exert its authority, and recurrent violence that has killed more than 260 people.

Rights groups, activists and politicians from rival camps, fearful of more bloodshed, tried to ward off any use of force, including a suggestion of putting a human chain around the protest sites.

International pressure grew for the interim government to release Morsi and create a process that includes his Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest political faction, which refuses to deal with the new authorities.

Despite a government

warning that it would disperse the vigils, the Brotherhood and its supporters announced plans to organize new mass marches Friday, dubbed "Egypt Against the Coup."

Organizers of the sit-ins outside the Rabaah al-Adawiya Mosque in eastern Cairo and a smaller one near Cairo University's main campus in Giza say the protests are signs of the enduring support for the once-dominant Muslim Brotherhood.

But mass rallies called by the military leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, on July 26 showed that a large segment of Egypt's population backs the armed forces' actions against Morsi. He was overthrown following demonstrations by millions who demanding that he step down after a year in office. □



Students of various Indian universities shout slogans against Egyptian Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and interim Vice President Mohamed ElBaradei during a solidarity march in support of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi outside the Egyptian Embassy in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)

Spanish train driver can't explain why he crashed

BARRY HATTON
CIARAN GILES
Associated Press
MADRID (AP) — The driver of the train that derailed in northwestern Spain, killing 79 people, has said he was traveling at twice the speed limit when he approached a treacherous turn.

But, sitting uneasily before a judge, he waved his hands

in front of his face and was at a loss to explain why he didn't slow down in a courtroom video released by a Spanish newspaper Thursday.

"I can't explain it," Francisco Jose Garzon Amo said, shifting in his chair and looking around. "I still don't understand how I didn't see ... mentally, or whatever. I just don't know."

The journey was "going fine" until the curve was upon him, he said. When the danger became clear, he thought, "Oh my God, the curve, the curve, the curve. I won't make it."

The edited video of Garzon's appearance at Sunday night's court session in Santiago de Compostela, where the accident occurred last week, was released by Spain's ABC newspaper. Two court officials said the video appeared authentic. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the video has not been officially released.

In it, Garzon, a slightly-built 52-year-old with short-cropped gray hair and glasses, appears shaken and at times hesitant. He sits in a simple chair in front of the judge, with four rows of chairs behind him in the small courtroom.

Garzon is wearing a dark jacket and trousers with an open-necked shirt. Behind him are two men in dark uniforms, and several other unidentified people are in the room. He also answers questions from a prosecutor.

Garzon's testimony added little new to what is already known about the crash on the evening of July 24 as the high-speed train, carrying 218 people in eight carriages, approached the capital of Spain's northwestern Galician region. But the video was the public's first look at the court testimony of the driver who walked away from the accident with a gash in his head.

ABC said its footage showed 18 minutes of excerpts from the full 55-minute session, accompanied by what it said was a transcript of the full session. The paper said it obtained a copy of the video that the court took of the session but has not made public.

The train had been going as fast as 119 mph (192 kph) shortly before the derailment. The driver activated the brakes "seconds before the crash," reducing the speed to 95 mph (153 kph), according to the court's preliminary findings based on black box data recorders. The speed limit on the section of track where the crash happened was 50 mph (80 kph). □

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Kerry, in Pakistan visit, talks of ending drone strikes soon

MICHAEL R. GORDON
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ISLAMABAD - Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday that the United States had made significant headway in its drone campaign and that he hoped the strikes in Pakistan could end shortly.

"I believe that we're on a good track," Kerry said in an interview on Pakistani television. "I think the program will end as we have eliminated most of the threat and continue to eliminate it."

Asked if the United States had a "timeline" for ending the drone strikes in Pakistan, Kerry said: "Well, I do. And I think the president has a very real timeline, and we hope it's going to be very, very soon." But he did not specify what the timeline was, and a State Department statement issued later said, "Today, the secretary referenced the changes that we expect to take place in that program over the course of time, but there is no exact timeline to provide."

Kerry was in Pakistan to strengthen ties, and was

meeting with the nation's new prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, and other members of the Pakistani leadership. His remarks followed President Barack Obama's speech on drone policy in May, in which he asserted that the reduction in U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan and progress in the fight against al-Qaida had reduced the need for drone strikes. But Obama did not go as far as Kerry in talking of ending the strikes. Kerry's comments, and the State Department's qualifying statement, illustrated the difficulty the Obama administration is having in trying to balance its desire to strengthen ties with Pakistan with its determination to strike militant groups who mount attacks into Afghanistan from havens in Pakistan.

As part of a push to improve ties, Kerry met Thursday with Sharif, who delayed a trip to Mecca for the meeting; Sartaj Aziz, the prime minister's foreign affairs adviser; and with Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Pakistan's powerful army chief, among others.

As Kerry tried to focus on developing a broad relationship, however, the issue of drones kept intruding in his agenda and public appearances.

The U.S. drone strikes are hugely unpopular in Pakistan. With Kerry standing

news conference. "We are asking for stopping."

In an effort to avoid inflaming Pakistani public sentiment, the Obama administration has cut back on the number of drone strikes in Pakistan.

According to the New

in 2012, 73 in 2011 and 122 in 2010.

Kerry said the United States was working with the Pakistani government on the issue, leaving open the possibility that the strikes might end only after the Pakistani government cracks down



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad, Pakistan Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013. Kerry was meeting Thursday with top Pakistani leaders, hoping the U.S. can open a new chapter in Washington's often testy relationship with Islamabad.

(AP Photo/Jason Reed, Pool)

by his side, Aziz said they should end.

"Drone attacks are counterproductive to our relationship," Aziz said at a joint

America Foundation, a nonpartisan public policy institute, there have been 16 drone strikes in Pakistan this year, compared with 48

on the militant havens or takes steps to encourage a peace settlement between the Taliban and the Afghan government. □

ECB 's Draghi holding the door open for lower rates

DAVID MCHUGH
AP Business Writer
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — European Central Bank President Mario Draghi held the door open for another interest rate cut if the struggling euro area economy needs it to get out of recession. The ECB on Thursday held off for now on offering more stimulus, leaving its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0.5 percent. But Draghi refused to rule out further cuts, telling reporters at his post-decision news conference that "we haven't reached the zero bound" for rates and repeated that they will "stay where they are or go lower."

The ECB head added that its stance was "valid for an extended period of time." That underlined the long-term message Draghi introduced at last month's

meeting, which was seen as a significant shift in the way the bank communicates.

Draghi has sought to make it clear the ECB is nowhere near a decision to withdraw any stimulus, unlike the U.S. Federal Reserve, which has started discussing when it might halt its bond-buying program aimed at promoting growth. The Fed statements that stimulus might end made some market interest rates, such as those on European government bonds, rise temporarily — something the ECB wants to prevent.

And while the U.S. is recovering, the 17 countries that share the euro as their currency are still waiting for a return to growth. The eurozone shrank 0.2 percent in the first quarter, the sixth straight quarter of declining output. □

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Challenger in Zimbabwe calls for investigation into election

ANGUS SHAW
GILLIAN GOTORA
Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Allegations of vote-rigging flowed in Zimbabwe on Thursday, with reports of fake registration cards, voters turned away from the polls and people appearing on voters' lists four times with different IDs. Even before results were announced, the main opposition camp said longtime President Robert Mugabe stole the election, which his supporters denied.

Either way, the country faces fresh political uncertainty. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, the main challenger to Mugabe, said the elections on Wednesday were "null and void" due to violations in the voting process, and a poll monitoring group that is not affiliated with the state said the poll was compromised by a campaign to stop voters from casting ballots. In the first official results announced by the state election commission late Thursday, Mugabe's party captured 28 of the 210 parliamentary seats, compared to three won by Tsvangirai's party. Most of those results came from Mugabe's rural strongholds.

The state election commission has promised a full

tally of results by Monday. The elections had posed one of the biggest challenges to Mugabe's 33-year grip on power on this former British colony, but claims by his opponents that the election was tainted and declarations of victory by the president's sup-



Downtown bustles after the presidential election in Harare, Zimbabwe, Aug. 1, 2013. Morgan Tsvangirai, the challenger to Zimbabwe's longtime president, Robert Mugabe, declared Thursday that the country's presidential election had been a "huge farce" and called upon international observers to investigate.
(Pete Muller/The New York Times)

porters suggested his political career was far from over.

Mugabe's party said Thursday it has withdrawn an unauthorized message on its Twitter feed claiming a resounding victory. The ZANU-PF party said it is

awaiting the release of results by the state election commission, the only body allowed under the law to announce the outcome. Tsvangirai boycotted a presidential run-off vote in 2008 to protest violence against supporters but said in the run-up this year

he was confident Zimbabweans would vote for change, even in the most difficult conditions.

"The shoddy manner in which it has been conducted and the consequent illegitimacy of the result will plunge this coun-

try into a serious crisis," Tsvangirai said of the election Wednesday. Tendai Biti, a top official in Tsvangirai's party, said even rural residents were told to pretend they were illiterate, and therefore had to be assisted in casting their ballots by officials

loyal to Mugabe. Rugare Gumbo, a spokesman for Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, said accusations of vote-rigging were false. "We dismiss these allegations with the contempt they deserve because there was absolutely no

way of manipulating the system. There was no way of rigging the election," he said.

Zimbabweans braced for tense days ahead. Tsvangirai's party urged supporters not to take to the streets or gather at an open field nicknamed "Freedom Square," its main Harare rallying point, compared by many to Cairo's Tahrir Square, the focal point of Egyptian demonstrations since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011. The conditions in Zimbabwe are different, though. Mugabe has a strong support base, security forces have traditionally been quick to clamp down on overt dissent and after the 2008 election, Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change joined Mugabe's ZANU-PF party in an uneasy coalition that was regionally brokered.

The coalition ended with the election on Wednesday. The MDC said in a statement that it received "radical" calls from supporters reflecting "the frustration, hopelessness and anger in every one of us" to actively fight Mugabe's party. "We understand the tears in everyone's eyes but we certainly do not believe in violence to resolve this," it said. Tsvangirai's last campaign rally in the open field, opposite the main courthouse in downtown Harare, drew some 50,000 jubilant followers on Monday, in sharp contrast to Mugabe's austere, muted campaign gatherings.

Thabani Nyoni, a civic activist and top researcher at the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, an alliance of 70 rights and pro-democracy groups, predicted that protests against election irregularities would likely emerge once official election results have been confirmed.

Voter Matthew Pfuri, a Harare car salesman, said he was shocked by early results coming from polling stations where, under electoral law, summaries are posted outside when initial vote-counting is complete. □

Nigeria: Islamic extremists kill 8 in northeast

HARUNA UMAR
Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Islamic extremists killed eight people in an attack targeting teachers and Muslim clerics in northeast Nigeria, witnesses and the military said Thursday. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Sagir Musa also warned that the Boko Haram terrorist network plans more such killings and "massive attacks" aimed at the northeastern city where their extremist movement was born — Maiduguri, capital of Borno state.

"The Joint Task Force wishes to alert citizens ... of the impending plans by Boko Haram terrorists to carry out massive attacks and

bombings in Maiduguri metropolis and other parts of Borno State any moment from now and during the Eid al-Fitr." That celebration on Aug. 8 marks the end of the Ramadan fasting period.

Musa said Tuesday's attack in Bui town, 185 kilometers (115 miles) south of Maiduguri, killed eight civilians and appeared to be the beginning of the planned campaign.

Witness Bala Anjikui said the militants struck at night and targeted teachers, like him, and Islamic clerics. Indicating a change of tactics, he said the militants used only knives to kill their victims — apparently to keep the noise of

gunshots from attracting soldiers.

Nigeria declared a state of emergency on May 14 to fight an Islamic uprising by militants in the northeast who want to impose Islamic law across a country divided almost equally between the predominantly Muslim north and mainly Christian south.

The insurgency poses the greatest threat in years to security in Africa's biggest oil producer and most populous nation of more than 160 million.

Earlier Thursday, the military congratulated themselves on the arrest of a Nigerian terrorist leader in neighboring Niger, saying it had foiled a plot to regroup

and launch more attacks. A statement Thursday said intelligence agents from both countries had been on the trail of the leader who was arrested Saturday in a border area. It did not identify the leader or his group.

Northeast Nigeria borders Niger and Chad and troops from all three countries have formed a joint force to try to secure hundreds of kilometers of porous borders.

The statement said the arrested leader had fled the military clampdown since the state of emergency was introduced and was recruiting and training militants in Niger to launch terrorist attacks in Nigeria. □

Chile's rescued miners case ends without charges

LUIS ANDRES HENAO
Associated Press
SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The inquiry into the mine collapse that trapped 33 men for more than two months in 2010 has ended with no charges filed, a result that drew angry responses Thursday from the rescued miners.

The cave-in at the San Jose mine in the Atacama desert brought the mine's safety record into focus and put mining, Chile's top industry, under close scrutiny.

The decision by a prosecutor in the northern region of Atacama to bring no charges against mine owners Alejandro Bohn and Marcelo Kennedy, or Chile's Mining Ministry's regulatory unit, was announced late Wednesday after a three-year investigation.

"It's impossible that in an accident of this magnitude no one is held responsible," Sepulveda said. "Today, I want to dig a deep hole and bury myself again; only this time, I don't want anybody to find me."

The miners said it felt like an earthquake when the shaft caved in above them on Aug. 5, 2010, filling the lower parts of the copper and gold mine with dust. Hours passed before they could even begin to see a few steps in front of them. Tons of rock shifted constantly above, threatening to bury them forever.

People on the surface didn't know for more than two weeks that the men had survived, and the 33 miners stretched a meager 48-hour store of emergency food for 17 days, eating tiny capsules of tuna and sips of expired milk. □

Mujica defends Uruguay's marijuana licensing plan

MICHAEL WARREN
PABLO FERNANDEZ
Associated Press
MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — Uruguay is poised to become the first nation to create a legal, regulated marijuana market, encouraging growers and sellers to produce enough pot to keep users from depending on illegal drug traffickers.

The plan to put the government at the center of a legal marijuana industry has made it halfway through the congress, giving President Jose Mujica a long-sought victory in his effort to explore alternatives to the global war on drugs.

"I'm an old man ... I never smoked marijuana, but I have come to notice what the life of young people is like," Mujica said Thursday in a radio address defending the proposal that was approved late Wednesday by congress' lower house. "The consumption is already happening — it's around every corner, and it comes from a clandestine market that by nature has ferocious rules. It's a monopoly of mafias."

Mujica said that for every 10 deaths by drug overdose, there are 100 people murdered by drug traffickers or shot down in the fight against organized crime.

"The worst thing of all is that it never ends!" he said. "How many keep falling? And drugs are still out there — why? Because the profits are enooooooooooooormous!"

The move drew both praise and criticism Thursday as word spread that 50 of 96 lawmakers in the lower house of congress had voted in favor. It now goes to the Senate, where approval is expected.

Smoking pot has long been legal in Uruguay, but growing, carrying, buying or

selling has called for prison terms. If the legislation is enacted, licensed adults will be able to have marijuana for any reason, including medicinal, recreational and industrial uses.

"Sometimes small coun-

The U.S. government, faced with its own legalization movement at the state level, such as in Colorado and Washington, largely stayed out of the Uruguayan debate, leaving people like Pope Francis to speak

lauded by many, including Terry Nelson, a former U.S. Border Patrol agent who now advocates for ending the drug war as part of the Law Enforcement Against Prohibition group.

"This bill ensures a safer Uru-



A man smokes marijuana outside the Congress where lawmakers debate a bill to legalize marijuana and regulate production and distribution in Montevideo, Uruguay, Thursday, August 01, 2013.

AP Photo/Matilde Campodonico

tries do great things," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the U.S. Drug Policy Alliance. "Uruguay's bold move does more than follow in the footsteps of Colorado and Washington. It provides a model for legally regulating marijuana that other countries, and U.S. states, will want to consider - and a precedent that will embolden others to follow in their footsteps."

out against the "liberalization of drugs" during his recent trip to Brazil. "INCB urges the Uruguayan authorities to ensure that the country remains fully compliant with international law which limits the use of narcotic drugs, including cannabis, exclusively to medical and scientific purposes," the agency said. But Uruguay's determination to legalize pot was

guay and it should be a model for the world," Nelson said. "The passage of this bill will allow police to spend their time and resources on violent crime, devastate criminal networks in the country who rely on marijuana income, create jobs, generate tax revenue, and ensure the quality and safety of the product for those who choose to use it." □

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Puerto Rico: Storms of near biblical proportions continue raining down

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Ricans are used to wet tropical weather, but the past few weeks have unleashed a series of storms of almost biblical proportions, destroying hundreds of homes, sweeping away cars and leaving tens of thousands without power. It has been the wettest July ever recorded in the U.S. island territory, with 14 inches (36 centimeters) so far drenching the capital. More rain fell on July 18 than had ever come down in a 24-hour period.

aged some 500 homes and caused about \$1.5 million in losses, according to initial estimates, said San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz. The territory is just over two months into a seven-month rainy season, and it is already the second wettest start of the year for the region, even though no major tropical storm or hurricane has hit. Nearly 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain have fallen so far, and more is likely on the way: Remnants of Tropical Storm Dorian were projected to slog through the Caribbean a bit north of the island by Monday or Tuesday.

island. In the first six days of that month alone, 16.6 inches (42.16 centimeters) of rain fell, 188 percent of the historic average for the full month, with isolated accumulations as high as 22 inches (55.88 centimeters). Hundreds of homes were flooded along with croplands, highways and tobacco leaf-curing buildings in the western province of Pinar del Rio, known as the cradle of Cuba's tobacco industry. In Puerto Rico, the wet weather has exposed an uncomfortable truth: The territory's roads, bridges, tunnels and drainage sys-



A couple uses an umbrella as it rains Ponce, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Puerto Ricans are used to wet tropical weather, but the past few weeks have been the wettest ever recorded in the U.S. island territory.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

The rain rarely stopped that day, with 9 inches (23 centimeters) pelting the San Juan area. People fled homes and cars as water rushed through doors and then windows. Rising floodwaters stranded drivers on highways turned lagoons. Some commuters were forced to use kayaks and paddle boards. "I've lived here 71 years, and this was the worst," said Andres Colon as he tried to repair his flooded car in a working class San Juan neighborhood of Santurce. "It came fast and without warning." The storm severely dam-

The deluge follows hard on a string of other wet years. The rainiest year on record was 2010, when 89.5 inches (227.33 centimeters) fell. The island's totals have been trending upward, in part because of warmer ocean temperatures and frequent occurrences of the weather phenomenon known as La Nina, which leads to a more active hurricane season, according to the National Weather Service. Nearby Cuba has been drenched as well. Authorities reported that June was the wettest on record for the western part of the

tems are ill equipped for the increasingly heavy storms likely to come due to climate change. "It's an urgent issue, not only because of the problems we've had, but because of the problems we're going to have," said Gabriel Rodriguez, president of the nonprofit Puerto Rico Planning Society. "Those kind of extreme events are going to become more common, and the losses and problems associated with them will become greater." Even normal years in Puerto Rico already are soggy by the standards of other famously rainy places. □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Group: Jamaica must probe transgender slaying

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A New York-based human rights group on Thursday calling for Jamaican police to conduct a full investigation into the mob killing of a transgender teenager. Dwayne Jones was found dead on July 22 near the northern city of Montego Bay after being attacked by a crowd of people while attending a dance party in women's clothing. Authorities said the 16-year-old was stabbed multiple times and shot once. In a Thursday statement, Human Rights Watch said Jamaican authorities need to send an "unequivocal message that there will be zero tolerance for violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people."

Haiti: 1,000-plus injured, 6 shot, 2 dead in party

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — An official in Haiti says shootings and scuffling marred this week's "Carnival of Flowers" party in the capital of Port-au-Prince. Nadia Lochard of the Civil Protection Office says that two people died, one from a gunshot and another fell from a float. Six others were wounded by bullets and a total of 1,041 people were treated at a clinic for minor injuries. Lochard said Thursday that most were hurt in fights or hit with bottles or rocks.

The street party was revived last year by the government of President Michel Martelly. Tens of thousands of revelers wore bright and colorful costumes as they filled the streets of Port-au-Prince for three nights ending Tuesday.

Jury clears Dominican maid in Puerto Rico death

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A jury in Puerto Rico has acquitted a housekeeper from the Dominican Republic of murder in the death of her employer.

Aida de los Santos was extradited from the Dominican Republic to face trial in the June 2010 stabbing death of 72-year-old Georgina Ortiz. The victim was a widow of a judge on the island's Supreme Court and lived in the wealthy Condado district of San Juan, the capital of the U.S. island territory. The jury of nine women and three men deliberated less than six hours before acquitting her Thursday. A judge ordered the immediate release of the 58-year-old de los Santos, who was initially detained as a witness in the case and attempted suicide while in custody.

Guyana man sought in machete slaying of 2 kids

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Authorities in Guyana say they are pursuing a man suspected of killing his two young children with a machete and critically wounding their mother. Police say 26-year-old sugar cane worker Richard Lord attacked his family in the town of Zeelugt after arguing with the child's mother, his common law wife. A police statement says the children were 5 and 2. The children's 21-year-mother was stabbed several times in the attack late Wednesday and was listed in critical but stable condition. Police said they were actively searching for the suspect Thursday.

Virgin Islands university focusing on solar energy

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — The University of the Virgin Islands has signed a power-purchasing agreement with an Illinois-based energy company to create solar energy systems on the school's two campuses. At a Tuesday signing ceremony, university President David Hall said the school's goal is to become completely energy independent in the coming years. □



Kicking off August 9th:

Smooth Sailing Awaits at 5th Annual Aruba International Regatta!

PALM BEACH - This year on August 9, 10 and 11, the fifth Aruba International Regatta will take place on Aruba.

Three days of action and competition for yachts, beach cats, sunfishes, optimists, windsurfers and kitesurfers; three evenings of music and parties for all participants and spectators.

The sailors will compete for the Budget Marine cup for the winner in the most competitive class. This cup



will be awarded for the third time this year and has a value of afl. 1000. For the youngest sailors there will be optimist races and there will be down wind races for the kite surfers and wind surfers.

The success of last year's event with over 80 sails on the water inspired the organization to take this

year's edition to a next level. At Surfside Beach, next to the airport, a regatta village will be built to ensure entertainment, music, food and beverage and a spectacular view on the races. The Aruba International Regatta is not only an event for the participants in the yacht races: the regatta village is a gather-

ing point for people who want to enjoy a view of the races, have a relaxed afternoon on the beach or, of course, are looking for a beach party.

Two regatta volunteers will build a rowing boat on the beach during the regatta weekend as a demonstration that watersports



can also be enjoyed on a tight budget. On Sunday, August 11 at around 5 pm the boat will be auctioned at Surfside and the profit of this auction will be donated to SYWA the organization that trains the youngest sailors of Aruba. The supplies for this rowing boat have been sponsored by Kooyman.

All events and races take place at Surfside Beach. Together with the other

sponsors like Budget Marine, ALBO, WEB-Aruba, Cafe 080, Kooyman, Studio

Advisory, Power Systems, ASD, ADCTRA, this regatta will surely be an event you shouldn't miss! Most participants are already preparing for the races and a number of international competitors have already confirmed their participation in the races. You can pre-register for the races via our contact form or call (+)297-565-6887. Visit www.aruba-regatta.com or facebook for more information. □



New Medical Insurance in Aruba:

Best Doctors Insurance VBA offers exclusive services, worldwide coverage

PALM BEACH - During a press conference held at the Westin Resort Mr. Glenn Marugg introduced a new medical insurance company Best Doctors Insurance that has recently established on Aruba with the name Best Doctors Insurance VBA. On this occasion the CEO and Chairman of Best Doctors Mr. David Seligman gave a comprehensive explanation of the unique and exclusive concept of Best Doctors. This company with its head office located in

Boston Massachusetts is a leading provider in service and medical insurance throughout the world. Making it possible for the insured to have access to the most renowned and most experienced specialists and hospitals throughout the world, regardless of where the patient or specialist is located. Best Doctors Insurance Inc. is a worldwide leader in medical insurance that guarantees excellent and first class treatment for their customers by dramatically increasing the qual-



ity of service. Founded in 1989 by Harvard Medical School Physicians, Best Doctors serves more than 30 million members in 70 countries. Best Doctors has designed and implemented health plans with international coverage



over 400 sub-specialties in more than 45 countries. Some of the benefits that Best Doctors offers are global medical coverage, direct payment to any hospital in the world; hospital and or specialist of your choice, air ambulance, and organ transplant. In Aruba you can also make use of Best Doctors Insur-

Beauty On The Beach

Stephanie & Angelique

Stephanie Borgis (left) and Angelique Jawalapersad (right), from Paramaribo, Suriname. They are on vacation for their first visit to the island, and they are staying at the apartment complex at Super Car Rental.



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which ensures that the customer gets the most advanced medical care. Best Doctors offers coverage between US\$2,000,000 and US\$ 5,000,000 with the available health insurance products, which can be used to cover expenses both in Aruba and abroad. With Best Doctors you can choose the specialist and or hospital you desire in any part of the world. Best Doctors offers Inter-Consultation. An exclusive service patented by Best Doctors that offers a meticulous review by a Best Doctors Expert about the information found in your medical records, to help you get the right diagnosis and treatment. Best Doctors unique database of more than 50,000 specialists is an unequalled and valuable resource which allows its customers access to the top 5% of the leading experts in more than 45 medical fields and



ance as an additional supplement to AZV, this may be used among other to get a first class room in the hospital. General Agent tasked with marketing and sales for Best Doctors in Aruba, is Mr. Glenn Marugg of Equidad Financial Services insurance broker. For more press info please contact: Best Doctors Marketing Director Maria Uribarri at murribarri@bestdoctors.com, tel: 305-269-2531, or visit www.bestdoctors-ins.com.

A Happy Bugaloe Welcome Back to Al Cevoli!

Palm Beach- This week, Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill located on the Palm Pier welcomes back loyal guest Al Cevoli from New Jersey. He has been coming to Aruba for 7 years and is staying at the Divi Resort. The gorgeous weather and friendly people is what keeps him coming back to the island year after year. But, more importantly, Al loves Bugaloe. He loves it so much, he can be found there every day, enjoying the spectacular views and Bacardi Rum Punch. These two factors is not all what attracts Al to Bugaloe. The great staff always give him a warm welcome, and not to mention the 'Simply Incredible' grilled steak sandwich, which is his favorite menu item. Sunday is particularly his favorite day to come to Bugaloe to watch the Equator band perform. Swinging his hips to a variety of 80/90 music is just what he loves! And when it all gets too hot and heavy, he can just dive off the pier and cool off. What else can a guy ask for? The Bugaloe crew always enjoy welcoming Al back to the happy island of Aruba and Bugaloe, and like to thank him for being such a loyal guest. Bugaloe hopes to continue welcoming Al back many more times! □



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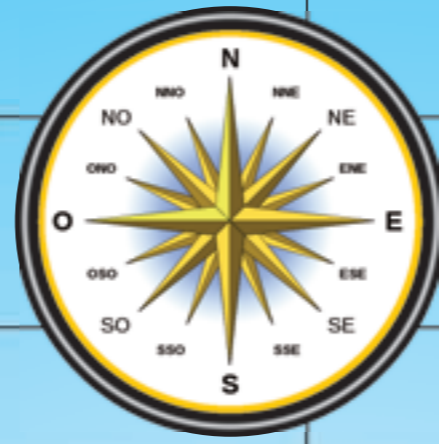
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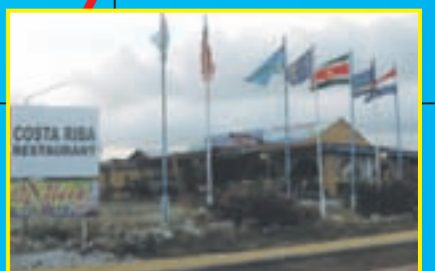
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Webb Simpson chips to the ninth green during the first round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013 at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. Simpson finished his round at 6-under par.

Associated Press

Simpson makes most of his 1st Bridgestone round

RUSTY MILLER

AP Sports Writer

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Webb Simpson, playing his first competitive round at Firestone Country Club, shot a 6-under 64 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead in the Bridgestone Invitational.

It all came down to trust.

"Well, I knew it all through my caddie (Paul Tesori), who's been here so many years," Simpson said. "I just kind of had to listen to him."

Tesori has caddied for years on tour, for Vijay Singh and Jerry Kelly, in addition to being a pro himself.

"It's hard for us players to listen to our caddies, but he basically showed me where to go yesterday and told me where to hit it, where the lines were, what clubs to hit," said Simpson, the 2012 U.S. Open champion. "I didn't feel like it was my first time because he has so much experience here."

Continued on page 20



AS Roma goalkeeper Bogdan Lobont (1) prevents a goal by the MLS All-Stars during the second half of the MLS soccer All-Star game Wednesday, July 31, 2013, in Kansas City, Kan. AS Roma won the game 3-1.

Associated Press

Roma beats MLS All-Stars 3-1 in friendly

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Kansas

(AP) — Italian club Roma scored after just four minutes and went on to win 3-1 in Wednesday's friendly against an MLS All-Star team. Kevin Strootman, Alessandro Florenzi and Junior Tallo scored for Roma while Omar Gonzalez of Los Angeles Galaxy scored a consolation goal for the MLS side in second-half stoppage time.

Most of a sellout crowd had barely found its seats at Sporting Park, the \$200 million home of Sporting Kansas City, when Florenzi sent a pass ahead to Strootman. Sporting defender Aurelien Collin got his foot to the ball, but Strootman still managed to guide it into the net.

Florenzi was denied a goal moments later by a close offside call, and then missed an open shot just wide of the net a few min-

utes later.

He finally found the back of the net in the 47th minute — he was clearly inside this time — and Tallo added his goal in 69th minute to put away the game.

While the MLS suffered defeat on the field, there was good news off it as MLS commissioner Don Garber announced at halftime that there will be four new clubs admitted to the league by 2020, expanding the MLS to 24 clubs. □

MLS to add 4 teams by 2020 season



This Jan. 10, 2013 file photo shows Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber addressing the media during a news conference in Kansas City, Kan.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kansas

(AP) — Major League Soccer plans to add four new teams by the 2020 season.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber announced the league's plans during halftime of its annual All-Star game Wednesday.

The location of the teams has yet to be decided, but Garber said the league has already had discussions with potential owners.

The news came one day after Hunt Sports Group announced it was selling the Columbus Crew to investor Anthony Precourt, and with the league set to add a 20th franchise in New York in 2015.

Garber told The Associated Press during an interview this week that the issue of expansion would be discussed "in great detail" during a meeting of league owners on Wednesday. □

Lochte, Magnussen back on top at swimming worlds

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — James Magnussen and Ryan Lochte are back on top at the world swimming championships.

Missy Franklin and Katie Ledecky just keep on winning.

Magnussen, who was viewed as a flop despite a silver medal at the London Olympics, rallied to win the 100 freestyle with a furious finishing kick, edging Americans Jimmy Feigen and Nathan Adrian.

After a disappointing start to the meet, Lochte looked more like himself Thursday night, pulling away to capture gold in the 200-meter individual medley.

But the Americans came through in the final event of the night, with Franklin and Ledecky leading the U.S. team to victory in the 4x200 free relay.

Ledecky put the Americans ahead at the start, and Franklin zipped away with a dominant anchor leg to win in 7 minutes, 45.14 seconds. The 18-year-old Franklin now has four golds from as many races in Barcelona, with three events to go. Ledecky, only 16 and getting ready for her junior year of high school, has three golds from three events with one race left.

No matter what, they will go down as two of the biggest stars of this meet.

Lochte barely celebrated after his race, letting out a deep breath as he squinted to see his winning time



Ryan Lochte of the United States swims to the gold medal in the Men's 200m individual medley final at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

— 1 minute, 54.98 seconds. Japan's Kosuke Hagino claimed the silver, more than a second behind, and Brazil's Thiago Pereira took bronze.

Magnussen was much more animated after winning the sport's glamour event — a victory he was denied last summer. The Australian swimmer known as "The Missile" hopped on the lane rope, flexing his muscles for the crowd while the fans from Down Under shouted "Oi! Oi! Oi!" "It was really emotional," Magnussen said. "That last sort of 15 meters I really used the last 12 months of experiences that I've gone through, and I was really aggressive toward the wall at the end. I'm just stoked that I got there."

Russia's Vladimir Morozov, who does much of his training in Southern California, was the leader at the turn, just ahead of Adrian, the Olympic champion.

Magnussen was nearly a second off the pace, but he powered through the water on the return lap to win in 47.71. Feigen also relied on a strong finish to get the silver in 47.82, leaving Adrian to settle for the bronze at 47.84. Morozov faded to fifth.

At the Olympics, Magnussen was a big favorite in the 100 free, but Adrian edged him for the gold medal by a hundredth of a second — the smallest margin possible in swimming. The Missile didn't even make the final of the 50 free, becoming one of the symbols of

an underachieving Australian men's team that failed to win a gold medal.

The Aussie men already have two in Barcelona: Magnussen and Christian Sprenger in the 100 breaststroke.

Magnussen was asked if beating Adrian was especially sweet after what happened in London.

"No," he said. "You know, if Adrian wasn't such a nice guy, it might be. You just can't hate him because he's so nice. I was just doing it for myself tonight."

The Americans were happy with their showing, especially Feigen. While Magnussen celebrated, a smiling Adrian put his arm around his teammate, who took the bulk of the blame for the U.S. settling for silver

in the 4x100 freestyle relay. Despite a lack of international experience, Feigen was put on the anchor leg — and couldn't hold on as France rallied for the victory.

Feigen was second again in the 100 free, but this time it felt more like a win.

"I started off a little shaky this whole worlds thing," he said. "I think it's coming together in the end."

Adrian knew it would be hard to hold off Magnussen.

"He's just an incredible competitor, and he's actually brought an entire new level to the 100 freestyle," Adrian said. "So it's a bummer, because without him we would be 1-2, but it's a good thing for the sport. It's exciting moving forward."

Lochte, who took a long break after London and cut back his training to work on a reality TV show, hardly looked in peak form while swimming the second leg of that 4x100 relay and laboring to a fourth-place finish in the 200 freestyle. Then, he had a bit of an epiphany. Lochte said he had spent too much time worrying about results instead of just having fun. Sure, he wasn't in the best of condition, but he figured his racing skill would come through if he just relaxed a bit. Well, he had every reason to scream "Yeah!" — his nonsensical catchphrase — after a dominating win in the 200 IM, a race he lost to Michael Phelps at last summer's Olympics. □

U.S. gay and lesbian hall of fame honors athletes

DON BABWIN
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — What organizers say is the first hall of fame for gay and lesbian athletes in the United States will induct its inaugural class Friday.

Among those being inducted into the National Gay & Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame are tennis greats Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova, Olympic

diving champion Greg Louganis and basketball player Jason Collins. Collins became the first active male professional athlete in a major team sport to publicly reveal he was gay. Executive Director Bill Gubrud says Chicago was chosen for the site because it's "one of the most gay-friendly cities in the United States" and the local Cubs baseball team

was the first professional sports team to advertise in a gay newspaper.

Organizers plan to raise money and find a building to house the hall of fame there.

Executive Director Bill Gubrud says a number of the inductees who are not gay are being recognized for having "helped create safe environment for LGBTs to compete in sports at ev-



Bill Gubrud, Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame sits for a portrait in Chicago, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

ery level."

Among those is Ben Cohen, an English rugby play-

er. "He founded a foundation to stop bullying against LGBTs," Gubrud said. □

Park, seeking 4th straight major, opens with 69

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — Wearing a black rain suit and a soft smile, Inbee Park looked calm as ever standing before the imposing Royal & Ancient clubhouse just moments before she teed off Thursday in the Women's British Open.

Only after her unsteady round of 3-under 69 did Park reveal perhaps the biggest surprise at St. Andrews.

She was nervous.

"But then once the round started, and especially playing so good in the first few holes, that really gave me a lot of confidence," Park said. "I didn't feel much pressure when I was playing during the round. I'm just glad that it's already started and I got the first round under my belt."

Park wound up three shots behind Morgan Pressel and Camilla Lennarth of Sweden, a solid start to what should be a fascinating week at the home of golf. Her pursuit of history looked more like a high-speed chase when the 25-year-old South Korean made



Korea's Inbee Park tees off on the second hole during the first round of the Women's British Open golf championship on the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland, Thursday Aug. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

six birdies in 10 holes. Three poor tee shots, two three-putt bogeys and one double bogey from a pot bunker on the back nine made her realize there's a reason no golfer has ever won four majors in a single year. "Felt like a roller coaster today," Park said.

She was only too happy it finally stopped with a 6-foot birdie on the 18th hole, ending a slide during which she dropped four shots in a five-hole span.

Pressel, one spot out of making the Solheim Cup team this week, caught a break when the rain and

wind never materialized in the afternoon. She made seven birdies in a round of 66 that gave her a share of the lead with Lennarth, who birdied the 18th. Stacy Lewis, the former No. 1 player in women's golf, shot 31 on the tougher back nine for a 67 to be

part of a large group that included former U.S. Women's Open champion Na Yeon Choi and Nicole Castrale. Another shot behind were Paula Creamer, Catriona Matthew and Lizette Salas.

Those who played early had reason to worry.

Lewis was on the 10th tee when she looked over at Park knocking in an 18-foot birdie putt, her fifth of the round. Castrale had not yet teed off when her husband saw a leaderboard with Park's name in a familiar position.

"It's amazing, the fact we all possibly can play with history," Castrale said. "It's amazing what she's done to this point, the composure she has. I don't know what she shot today, but I'm going to guess she'll be in the mix come Sunday."

If there were nerves on the first tee for Park, she didn't show it.

She opened with a wedge into about 7 feet for birdie, and then she really poured it on with an astounding display of her putting stroke. She rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt on No. 3 with perfect pace. □

Bridgestone

Continued from page 18

Six-time Bridgestone winner Tiger Woods did not have to rely so much on the man on his bag, Joe LaCava, while shooting a 66. Woods has 11 top-10 finishes in his 13 starts at the course, so he clearly knows where to go.

Still, he needed his counsel from time to time.

"I hit a lot of good shots. I had a really good feel for the distance today, and Joey and I really read the wind right today," Woods said after his best opening round at the course since another 66 spurred him to a one-shot victory over in 2005.

"We changed a lot of shots out there, and we both had a really good handle on what we were doing feel-wise with the wind."

Henrik Stenson was alone

in second with a 65. Defending champion Keegan Bradley, Ryan Moore and Chris Wood, another first-time entrant, matched Woods at 66.

Simpson had six birdies in an eight-hole span.

There was only one glitch.

"I wish I didn't bogey the last hole," he said after missing the green on the par 4 and failing to get up and down. "It's one area I've got to get better at. When I'm between clubs, hitting more club and swinging easy is where I've been struggling."

"You know, there's always something to work on."

Simpson hasn't won this season. He called his year "encouraging and frustrating."

"I feel like I've let a couple of tournaments go that maybe I should have closed out," he said.

Stenson started out birdie, eagle — hitting his second shot 243 yards on the par-



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the 11th hole during the first round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013 at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

5 hole to inside 4 feet. He slowed down from there, paring every hole except for birdies at the 11th and 12th holes.

He had more problems with his outfit than the course. He was breaking in a new pair of shoes and felt a blister coming on at the turn, so had to switch to an older pair that didn't necessarily

fit with his ensemble.

"They might not match the outfit perfectly, but it felt like I had socks on compared to the other ones," he said, grinning.

Woods would have a nice career if only World Golf Championship events, such as the Bridgestone, counted. He won three in a row (1999-2001) at Fires-

tone, then had three top-five finishes before reeling off victories in his next four appearances (2005-2009), and missing the 2008 tournament while recovering from knee surgery.

In 41 WGC starts, he has 32 top-10 finishes.

There's something about Firestone that brings out the best in him.

"Luckily, over the years I've taken advantage of it," he said. "I have played well and I've scored well, and I've won my share of tournaments here."

Bradley won the Bridgestone a year ago when he shot a closing 64, and Jim Furyk, who had led all week, double-bogeyed the closing hole.

Bradley put together a workmanlike, efficient 66 that didn't include a bogey.

The 2011 PGA Championship winner doesn't want to stress out on defending his title. □

AL Capsules

Red Sox edge Mariners in 15, go top in AL East



Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia celebrates as he scores the winning run on a single by Stephen Drew in the 15th inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners at Fenway Park in Boston Wednesday, July 31, 2013. The Red Sox won 5-4.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Stephen Drew singled in the winning run in the 15th inning to lift the Boston Red Sox to a 5-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners and back into first place in the AL East on Wednesday night.

Dustin Pedroia drew a leadoff walk and took second on a groundout by David Ortiz. Mike Napoli was walked intentionally and Jarrod Saltalamacchia struck out. Jonny Gomes then walked, loading the bases, and Drew hit a liner just inside the right-field line as Pedroia scored the decisive run.

Boston moved a half-game ahead of Tampa Bay in the division.

Drew Britton (1-0) pitched two innings for his first major league win. Lucas Luetge (0-2) took the loss.

Seattle's Kyle Seager had tied the game at 4 in the eighth with his 17th homer of the year, a solo shot off Junichi Tazawa.

Pedroia had given the Red Sox a 4-3 lead with a two-run homer in the seventh, his eighth.

ROYALS 4, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Alex Gordon hit a two-out triple in the seventh inning and then scored the go-ahead run on an error, and Kansas City won its eighth straight game by beating Minnesota.

The Royals are above .500 at the end of July for the first time since 2003. At 53-51, they are two games over the break-even mark

for the first time since May 17. They remained seven games behind Detroit in the AL Central race and 4½ games back of second-place Cleveland, the current holder of the second wild card spot.

Jeremy Guthrie (11-7) won his third start in a row with his seventh consecutive appearance of at least six innings. Greg Holland pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 30 tries.

Twins reliever Caleb Thielbar (1-1) took the loss.

The Royals, who have the league's second-best team ERA, have relied on their rotation for this mid-summer surge. The starters have allowed 11 earned runs in 72 innings during the streak.

Kansas City is 9-3 against the Twins this season and 26-19 against the division.

ASTROS 11, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Rookie left-hander Brett Oberholtzer allowed three hits over seven innings to earn his first major league win, Jason Castro hit a grand slam, and Houston routed Baltimore.

Matt Dominguez homered and had a career-high four hits for the Astros, who built a 9-0 lead in the fourth inning and coasted to their most lopsided victory of the season.

Oberholtzer (1-0) started after Erik Bedard was scratched with a sore shoulder. Making his fourth appearance and first start in the big leagues, Oberholtzer struck out six,

walked none and did not let a runner get past first base.

Miguel Gonzalez (8-5) yielded a career-high nine runs, four earned, in 3 2-3 innings.

Hours before the first pitch, the Astros traded pitcher Bud Norris to the Orioles for outfielder L.J. Hoes and a minor league prospect. Hoes switched from the Baltimore starting lineup to batting second for Houston and went 0 for 5.

BLUE JAYS 5, ATHLETICS 2, 10 INNINGS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jose Bautista hit a go-ahead double in the top of the 10th inning, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Oakland.

Bautista doubled off Jesse Chavez (2-3). Rookie catcher Stephen Vogt's second costly passed ball of the game allowed Jose Reyes to advance after a leadoff infield single, and Reyes scored on Bautista's hit.

Casey Janssen (4-0) pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for the win, while Brett Cecil finished for his first major league save in two opportunities.

RANGERS 2, ANGELS 1 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Adrian Beltre led off the bottom of the ninth for Texas with a home run to beat the Los Angeles Angels, completing a three-game series sweep in which the Rangers won each on game-ending homers.

Beltre hit his 23rd homer, connecting off Michael Kohn (1-1).

Nelson Cruz also homered for Texas, his 25th putting the Rangers up 1-0 in the second before Josh Hamilton's tying homer in the seventh for the Angels.

Rangers closer Joe Nathan (3-1) struck out two and walked one in the top of the ninth to win for the second night in a row.

INDIANS 6, WHITE SOX 5, 10 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP) — Carlos Santana's leadoff home run in the 10th inning sent the Cleveland Indians over the Chicago White Sox for their seventh straight win.

Santana hit a 3-2 pitch from Dylan Axelrod (3-7) into the right field seats for Cleveland's ninth walkoff win of the season.

Chris Perez (4-1) hit Adam Dunn with a pitch with two outs in the 10th, but struck out Paul Konerko to end the inning as Chicago lost its sixth straight game.

INTERLEAGUE

TIGERS 11, NATIONALS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Alex Avila

and Torii Hunter hit homers in a five-run second inning and the Detroit Tigers scored five more runs in the fourth inning while routing Washington.

The AL Central-leading Tigers swept the two-game series. They have won five straight, the latest victory coming while star Miguel Cabrera was out of the lineup, a day after aggravating an injury. □

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AUGUST 1-7

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SAT, SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15

MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45
FRI 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45 | 11:15
SAT 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45

ON TWO SCREENS

DENZEL WASHINGTON | MARK WAHLBERG

2GUNS

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FRI 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

ON TWO SCREENS

HUGH JACKMAN | RILA FUKUSHIMA

THE WOLVERINE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

REGULAR VERSION
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FRI & SAT 8:35 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 8:35

3D VERSION
MON - FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20

JEFF BRIDGES | RYAN REYNOLDS

R.I.P.D.

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

MON - FRI 5:05 | 7:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20

JASON STATHAM | AGATA BUZEK

REDEMPTION

WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES [R]

MON - THURS 9:35
FRI & SAT 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:35

RYAN REYNOLDS | PAUL GIAMATTI

TURBO

MON - FRI 4:10 | 6:25
SAT, SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25

BRUCE WILLIS | HELEN MIRREN

RED 2

MON - THURS 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:30

ADAM SANDLER | KEVIN JAMES

grown ups 2

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35
FRI 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35

STEVE CARELL | KRISTEN WIG

THE MENTALIST

MON - THURS 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50
FRI 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50

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Pirates slip by Cardinals 5-4 for 4th straight win

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Russell Martin drove home Neal Walker with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates rallied to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 5-4 Wednesday night. Martin's sharp grounder off Trevor Rosenthal (1-2) rolled into left field, giving Walker enough time to score from second. The Pirates' fourth straight win over the Cardinals gave Pittsburgh a 2½-game lead in the NL Central. St. Louis left 11 runners on base and dropped its seventh consecutive game. The Cardinals led 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2. Tony Watson (3-1) worked two shutout innings in relief. Mark Melancon pitched a perfect ninth for his fifth save.

Matt Holliday had three hits and drove in two runs, and the Cardinals' struggling offense put together 13 hits. **BRAVES 9, ROCKIES 0**
ATLANTA (AP) — Mike Minor allowed only two hits in seven scoreless innings, Brian McCann hit a three-run homer in a seven-run third, and Atlanta beat Colorado for its sixth straight win. Freddie Freeman drove in two runs with four hits as the Braves continued their offensive surge with 15 hits. The Braves have scored 29 runs while winning the first three games of the four-game series. The Braves lead second-place Washington by 11 games in the NL East, their biggest advantage in nine years. Minor (11-5) didn't walk a batter and didn't allow a Colorado baserunner to reach second base. Tyler Chatwood (7-4) allowed a career-high seven earned runs on 10 hits, one



Pittsburgh Pirates' Russell Martin (55) singles off St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Trevor Rosenthal, driving in the go-ahead run during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh Wednesday, July 31, 2013. The Pirates won 5-4.
Associated Press

walk and one hit batter in only 2 1-3 innings. Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez left the game in the fourth inning after aggravating his sprained right middle finger. **GIANTS 9, PHILLIES 2**
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Chad Gaudin threw seven sharp innings, Brett Pill and Brandon Crawford hit homers, and San Francisco snapped a five-game losing streak with the victory over Philadelphia. The defending World Series champion Giants are last in the NL West. The Phillies entered 11½ games out of first place and fell to nine back in the wild-card standings. Gaudin (5-2) allowed one run and four hits, striking out five. He also got his first career RBI on a single that was just his second hit in 59 at-bats. Roger Kieschnick had RBI singles in his first two major league at-bats for the Giants, who snapped a nine-game homerless drought

when Pill went deep. Pill had three hits and four RBIs. Kyle Kendrick (9-8) gave up eight hits and seven runs in two-plus innings. **REDS 4, PADRES 1**
SAN DIEGO (AP) — Homer Bailey came within two outs of a five-hit shutout to end his four-start losing streak and Cincinnati beat San Diego to snap a five-game skid. Brandon Phillips homered and Joey Votto hit a two-run double for the Reds, who avoided a three-game sweep and ended the Padres' four-game winning streak. Bailey had allowed just five singles going into the ninth, when Everth Cabrera reached on a fielding error by first baseman Votto leading off the inning. The right-hander got Chris Denorfia to fly out before Chase Headley doubled in Cabrera. Manager Dusty Baker pulled Bailey, and Arodis Chapman got the final two outs for his 25th save in

29 chances. Bailey (6-10) allowed six hits and one unearned run, struck out seven and walked none. Phillips homered to center field off lefty Eric Stults (8-10) leading off the second, his 13th. **MARLINS 3, METS 2**
MIAMI (AP) — Jake Marisnick hit his first major league home run and Henderson Alvarez pitched into the eighth inning to lead Miami over New York. Giancarlo Stanton and Placido Polanco also drove in a run each for the Marlins, who dropped the first two games of the four-game series with the Mets. Mike Dunn got four outs for his second save in place of Steve Cishek, who pitched two innings and took the loss in Tuesday's 4-2 loss to New York. Dunn issued a lead-off single to John Buck before retiring the next three batters to end the game. Alvarez (2-1) allowed two

runs and six hits in 7 1-3 innings. He is 2-0 with a 1.33 ERA in his last four starts. Marisnick homered off of Jenry Mejia (1-1) in the second inning to give the Marlins a 1-0 lead. The 22-year-old rookie was hitting .179 (5 for 28) in his first eight games before the home run. **CUBS 6, BREWERS 1**
CHICAGO (AP) — Edwin Jackson pitched eight solid innings, David DeJesus drove in three runs and Chicago beat Milwaukee to salvage the finale of the four-game series. Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer and Starlin Castro belted a solo shot as Chicago closed out a 14-13 July, its first winning calendar month since it went 15-10 last July. Jackson allowed one run and eight hits in his longest outing of the season, staying in the game after a 66-minute rain delay in the sixth inning. Jonathan Lucroy had two doubles for Milwaukee, driving in Rickie Weeks with a grounder down the first-base line in the eighth. Jeff Bianchi and Caleb Gindl also had two hits apiece. Rizzo went deep in the third, driving a 3-1 pitch from Wily Peralta (7-11) over the wall in center for his 15th homer — matching his career high set a year ago. Castro connected an inning later, making it 3-0 with a drive to the bleachers in left. Jackson (7-11) struck out four and walked none. The right-hander finished July with a 3-1 record and a 1.83 ERA in five starts. **INTERLEAGUE**
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pinch-hitter Lyle Overbay singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the top of the ninth inning, helping New York defeat Los Angeles. □



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Not a car or bicycle, but a blend _ an ELF vehicle

RESTON, Virginia (AP) — A Massachusetts man is taking his car-bicycle blend "Organic Transit Vehicle" — also known as an ELF bike — on a 1,200-mile trip from North Carolina to Massachusetts this summer, turning heads as the unusual-looking green vehicle zips through city streets.

What Mark Stewart is driving looks like a cross between a bicycle and a car with solar panels, a gently humming motor and a futuristic shape. It's a "green" option for today's commuters.

"It reminds me of when I saw a Smart car the first time," said Joanne Bury as she emerged from her Reston condominium building to take a look at the vehicle. "This is incredible. What is it?"

Stewart, a 65-year-old family therapist and school psychologist from Cambridge, Massachusetts, took the summer off in order to drive his new vehicle more than 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) on trails and roads using the East Coast Greenway, a bike and pedestrian trail that runs from Canada to Key West.

Stewart began his journey by flying down to Durham, North Carolina, on July 15, and estimates that the entire trip will take about a month. He covered the first leg, from Durham to Reston, Virginia, over roughly five days, 60 miles (95 kilometers) at a time.

The ELF, or "Organic Transit Vehicle," can go for 1,800 miles (2,895 kilometers) on the energy equivalent of a gallon of gasoline. It does not require the insurance, repair and car maintenance costs of the average vehicle. Besides the cost of the occasional new tire, the ELF runs com-



This photo taken July 24, 2013 shows the Organic Transit's ELF bike in a parking lot in Reston, Va. It's the closest thing yet to Fred Flintstone's footmobile _ only with solar panels and a futuristic shape.

Associated Press

pletely off what it costs to charge its battery.

Stewart bought the ELF from Durham-based Organic Transit, which sells them for a base price of \$5,000. He said he wanted to avoid the almost \$1,000 delivery charge, so he decided to fly down to pick up the bike in person and learn how to operate it before taking the long trip back home.

"I spent three days in the shop hanging with the guys there and learning the vehicle," Stewart said. "This is just an unsupported solo trip up here in a vehicle that nobody else really knows."

Stewart's ELF is only about the 40th to come off the production line. While few bike shop workers have seen the contraption, the materials, such as the tires and pedals, are items on your average bicycle.

Organic Transit CEO Rob Cotter took technology from aircraft, boats and bicycles and incorporated them into a "green" 130-pound (59-kilogram) vehicle. He was consulting on bike-sharing technolo-

gies being considered by New York City when he saw there was a market for his vehicle.

"A combination of environmental catastrophes, high fuel costs, climate change and a migration of people moving to the cities all combined for a trend of people looking for an automotive alternative. But not everyone can fit a bicycle into their daily life," Cotter said.

Demand has grown significantly, and Organic Transit



This photo taken July 24, 2013 shows ELF bike owner Mark Stewart describing the features of his bike during a rest stop in Reston, Va.

Associated Press

has opened a second factory. The company is working on its 75th bike, with more than 200 already sold or reserved with a deposit. While the ELF is classified as a bicycle by Organic Transit, the laws surrounding such a vehicle vary. In the District of Columbia, where Stewart's GPS was taking him, the ELF is not allowed on the bike trails and paths. The city classifies it as a motorized bicycle.

"They can't operate the unit on a sidewalk, they

can't park on a street and they can't operate on off-street bike trails or bike routes," said Monica Hernandez of the city's Department of Transportation. "The only thing you can do (on the street) is stop to unload or load the unit."

Stewart says so far he's only gotten looks of curiosity.

"A lot of cops have gone by me no one's said boo. They'll look, they're interested but they don't question its right to be on the road," Stewart said. □

Smartphone cradle, app detect toxins, bacteria



A handheld biosensor was developed by researchers at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is shown June 21, 2013 in Urbana, Ill

Associated Press

URBANA, Illinois (AP) — Afraid there may be peanuts or other allergens hiding in that cookie? Thanks to a cradle and app that turn your smartphone into a handheld biosensor, you may soon be able to run on-the-spot tests for food safety, environmental toxins, medical diagnostics and more.

The handheld biosensor was developed by researchers at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

A series of lenses and filters

in the cradle mirror those found in larger, more expensive laboratory devices.

Together, the cradle and app transform a smartphone into a tool that can detect toxins and bacteria, spot water contamination and identify allergens in food.

Kenny Long, a graduate researcher at the university, says the team was able to make the smartphone even smarter with modifications to the cellphone camera. □

S&P 500 closes above 1,700 points for first time

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market got jolted out of the summer doldrums Thursday by better news on the U.S. economy, sending indexes back to all-time highs.

The Standard & Poor's 500, the Dow Jones industrial average and the Russell 2000 index all set records. The S&P broke through 1,700 points for the first time. The Nasdaq hit its highest level since September 2000.

The gains were driven by a steady flow of encouraging, if incremental, reports on the global economy.

The S&P 500 index rose 21.14 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,706.87. The Dow rose 128.48 points, or 0.8 percent, to 15,628.02. The Russell 2000 of small-company stocks rose 14.62 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,059.88.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 49.37 points, or 1.4 percent, to 3,675.74, in line with the daily gains of other indexes but not near its record. The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, briefly veered above 5,000 points in March 2000, just before the Internet bubble burst.

Overnight, a positive read

on China's manufacturing helped shore up Asian markets. Then, an hour before U.S. trading started, the government reported that unemployment claims fell last week. At mid-morning a trade group said U.S. fac-

portfolio manager of the Croft Value Fund in Baltimore. "It's hard to put your finger on why exactly, but basically it's a bunch of pretty good data points coming together to make a very good day."



Specialist Fabian Caceres, background right, works with traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market got jolted out of the summer doldrums Thursday by better news on the U.S. economy, sending indexes back to all-time highs. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

tories revved up production last month. And while corporate earnings news brought both winners and losers, investors were able to find enough that they liked in companies including CBS, MetLife and Yelp. "It's just a lot of things adding up," said Russell Croft,

Overall, analysts said, the news was good but not overwhelmingly so. Enough to suggest that the economy is improving, but not enough to prompt the Federal Reserve to withdraw its economic stimulus programs. Earnings results covered a wide range. Boston

Beer, which makes Samuel Adams, and home shopping network operator HSN rose after beating analysts' estimates for earnings and revenue. Kellogg, health insurer Cigna and cosmetics maker Avon were down after beating earnings predictions but missing on revenue. It's becoming a familiar template this year. Stock indexes have been setting record highs even while the underlying economy is more often described as decent, but hardly going gangbusters. Take company earnings, the most important thing for stock investors. Earnings at S&P 500 companies are up 4.3 percent this quarter, and revenue is down 0.4 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ. In previous eras, that hardly would have been considered encouraging. In the second quarter of 2007, before the financial crisis imploded, earnings rose 8.7 percent and revenue was up 5.8 percent. But compared with the second quarters of 2008 and 2009, when earnings plunged more than 20 percent each time, this year's results look positively cheery. □

COMMODITIES

Corn slumps as rain forecasting boosts outlook

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of corn fell to the lowest in almost three years the forecast for rain in the U.S. Plains region boosted the outlook for this year's crop. The cooler, wetter weather will be particularly helpful for this year's crop because corn is currently in its crucial pollination season. The weather in the corn-growing states of the U.S. this summer is in stark contrast to the drought that the region experienced last year.

"It's expected to be cooler than normal. That's going to be helpful (for the crop), especially for areas that are a little short on moisture," said Art Liming, a futures specialist at Citigroup. Corn for December delivery fell 12 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$4.67 a bushel, its lowest price since Oct. 1, 2010. The price of corn has fallen 44 percent since surging as high as \$8.39 a bushel last August.

The price of corn has moved lower since March 28 after the government reported that farmers intended to plant the most corn since 1936 this year. Prices have steadily dropped as the favorable weather has increased the likelihood of a big crop.

Other agricultural products also fell on Thursday.

November soybeans dropped 13.75 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$11.925 a bushel. September wheat fell 6.25 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$6.58 a bushel.

In metals trading, gold edged lower and silver was unchanged.

Gold for December delivery dropped \$1.80, or 0.1 percent, to \$1,311.20 an ounce. Silver for September delivery was unchanged at \$19.624 an ounce.

Copper for September delivery rose 4.75 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$3.166 a pound. Platinum for October delivery gained \$14.50 an ounce, or 1 percent, to \$1,443.80 an ounce. □

AIG posts higher 2Q profit; declares dividend



This photo shows an AIG office building in New York. American International Group Inc. said Thursday that its profit grew 17% in the second quarter.

(AP Photo)

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — American International Group Inc. said Thursday that its profit grew 17 percent in the second quarter as the insurer benefited from higher net premiums, pric-

es and income from investments.

The New York-based company also declared a 10-cent quarterly dividend — its first since it nearly collapsed in 2008 during the financial crisis before being bailed out by the fed-

eral government. And it announced board approval of a share buyback plan of up to \$1 billion.

AIG reported that net income rose to \$2.7 billion, or \$1.84 per share, in the three months ended June 30. That compares with net income of \$2.33 billion, or \$1.33 per share, a year earlier.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected, on average, adjusted earnings of 86 cents per share.

Net premiums written at AIG's property casualty business increased 1.8 percent to \$9.3 billion, aided by higher prices.

AIG nearly collapsed after making huge bets on mortgage investments that later soured. Federal regulators were concerned that if it were allowed to fail it would hurt the broader financial system, which was

already reeling after Lehman Brothers collapsed in the fall of 2008.

The Treasury Department provided about \$68 billion to AIG through its Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP. The rest of the bailout, \$114 billion, came from the New York Fed.

AIG became a symbol for excessive risk on Wall Street and was criticized, among other things, for paying millions of dollars in bonuses to executives after it was bailed out.

In recent years AIG has undergone a massive restructuring that cut its size in half and turned its focus to its core business of writing insurance.

AIG shares ended regular trading up \$1.56, or 3.4 percent, at \$47.07. The stock added \$1.91, or 4.1 percent, to \$48.98 in after-hours trading. □

New York Times Co. posts 2Q income of \$20.1M

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times Co. said on Thursday that it had net income of \$20.1 million for the second quarter, helped by a jump in paid digital subscriptions that largely offset lower advertising revenue. The profit reversed a year-ago loss that stemmed from costs related to the sales of businesses. The results were in line with analysts' expectations, but the company warned that it expects continued "volatility" in advertising revenue for the current quarter.

Times Co. shares rose as much as 3 percent in morning trading, before falling to \$11.77 to close down 3 percent for the day. The company's stock has climbed nearly 40 percent since the beginning of 2013, compared with the Standard & Poor's 500 Index's 20 percent. "The increase in operating profit reflects the ongoing evolution of our digital subscription initiatives on the circulation side, the moderation of revenue declines on the advertising side and

the continued focus on managing costs," Times Co. President and CEO Mark Thompson, who joined the company in November, said in a statement. The New York-based company, which operates The Boston Globe and International Herald Tribune in addition to its flagship paper, said net income of \$20.1 million amounted to 13 cents per share. That compared with a loss of \$87.6 million, or 58 cents per share, a year ago. The 2012 period's results included \$125.7 mil-

lion in losses from discontinued operations related to the sales of the company's Regional Media Group and About Group. The recent quarter's results included a charge of \$1.6 million, or 1 cent per share, related to severance costs. Excluding that, the company earned an adjusted 14 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected 13 cents per share. Excluding the losses related to Regional Media Group and About Group, along with \$1.8 million, or

1 cent per share, in severance costs and a gain of \$22 million, or 15 cents per share, related to the sale of the company's remaining stake in Fenway Sports Group, Times Co. earned an adjusted 11 cents per share for the year-ago period. Revenue slipped about 1 percent to \$485.4 million from \$489.8 million. Like other newspaper companies, Times Co. has faced declines in print advertising and subscription revenue. □

Auto sales rise as small cars enjoy summer surge

DEE-ANN DURBIN
TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Pickup trucks may have led the charge, but strong sales of small cars in July showed demand for new vehicles is broad — and not slowing down.

Car sales grew in the first six months of this year, but not at the blistering pace of trucks and SUVs. Through June, full-size pickups were up 22.5 percent over the year before, while cars were up just 5 percent. Last month, car sales took off. General Motors' car sales jumped 24 percent. Sales of the Honda Civic small car were up 30 percent to 32,416, their best July in 13 years. Sales of the recently redesigned Ford Fiesta subcompact jumped 89 percent, while the Toyota Prius hybrid was up 40 percent. Part of the small car surge was seasonal. Small cars

always sell better in the summer and then taper off as winter approaches. But it's also an indication of the high level of demand from regular consumers, not just the contractors and other small businesses that helped fuel the truck boom.

Christian Mayes, an auto analyst with Edward Jones in St. Louis, said truck sales will pick up even more in the fall. But he also expects car sales to remain strong through the rest of this year because short-term interest rates should stay low, keeping payments down. Also, automakers are introducing new cars at a brisk pace, and car buyers are finally replacing the old vehicles they kept through the Great Recession.

"A lot of customers with their cars being 10 years old or older are looking to trade in and get something a little bit newer," he said. GM, Ford, Chrysler, Toyota

and Nissan all reported double-digit sales gains last month. Honda led the way with a 21 percent sales in-

crease. Of major automakers, only Volkswagen had a down month. Its sales were off 3.3 percent as the top-



Workers guide the sign for the newly remodeled Quality Buick GMC Cadillac dealership at 1620 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton, Ill., Wednesday July 31, 2013. Surging auto sales figures for July were announced Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/John Badman)

million, according to Autodata Corp. On an annualized basis, the sales pace slowed slightly from June

to 15.7 million. But that was still better than the annualized rate of 14 million from a year ago.

The industry's numbers for July come a day after the U.S. government reported stronger than expected growth for the April-June quarter.

The consulting firm LMC Automotive said the improving economy could push this year's sales to around 16 million.

Sales last topped 16 million in 2007, just ahead of the recession. They bottomed out at a 30-year low of 10.4 million in 2009, and have been recovering ever since.

Appealing new products should keep drawing buyers to dealer showrooms. GM's new Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups just went on sale, while Toyota said Thursday that production of its new Corolla small car has begun in Mississippi. □

Oil soars on positive signs for global economy

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil is suddenly marching upward again.

Oil rose \$2.86 a barrel Thursday, for a two-day gain of \$4.81, or 4.7 percent. That erased a \$4 decline in the week ended Tuesday.

Positive signs on the global economy were the catalyst Thursday.

Data from China and Europe showed improve-

ment in manufacturing. In the U.S., in addition to a strong report on manufacturing, a drop in unemployment claims indicated a strengthening job market. Even with those signs of improvement, global central bankers show no inclination of easing up on measures that have kept interest rates at historic lows — and prompted investment in riskier assets like oil and

stocks.

On Thursday Mario Draghi, head of the European Central Bank, indicated it is nowhere near withdrawing its help for the euro area's economy.

On Wednesday the U.S. Federal Reserve hinted that it's not ready to slow its bond-buying program, which has kept long-term rates low in an effort to boost borrowing and

spending.

U.S. benchmark oil for September delivery gained 2.7 percent to close at \$107.89 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent crude, traded on the ICE Futures exchange in London, rose \$1.84 to finish at \$109.54 per barrel.

On Friday attention will be focused on the release of hiring figures for July, which will be examined for hints

about future energy demand in the world's No. 1 economy

In other energy futures trading on the Nymex:

— Heating oil was up 4 cents to end at \$3.10 a gallon.

— Natural gas fell 6 cents to finish at \$3.39 per 1,000 cubic feet.

— Wholesale gasoline rose 3 cents to end at \$3.03 a gallon. □

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

ACROSS

- ACROSS
- 1 Sharpen
5 Float along aimlessly
10 Taverns
14 Oast, for one
15 Passenger
16 Perched upon
17 Bottom
18 Blazing
19 Uncommon
20 Put in order
22 Extended one's arm
24 Helium or hydrogen
25 Row of shrubs
26 Use a broom
29 Remote
30 Parent or grandparent
34 Corncocks
35 Harness
mouthpiece
36 Write an auto policy for
37 Long __; in the distant past

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/3/1

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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8/3/13

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 44 Ate between
meals | 51 Catcher's glove |
| 46 French señora | 52 Des Moines, ____ |
| 47 Baseball's ____ | 53 Mix with a
wooden spoon |
| 48 Griffey, Jr. | 54 Book leaf |
| 49 Poultry shop
purchase | 55 Bee colony |
| 50 ____ bear; white
animal | 56 Is in the red |
| | 57 Basin |
| | 60 Church seat |

- DOWN**
- 1 Israeli dance
 - 2 Finished; done
 - 3 Close by

Poster of pope and Argentine leader criticized



Pedestrians walk behind a defaced poster with the Spanish word that loosely translates to "Thief" featuring Pope Francis, left, Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez, center, and Lomas de Zamora Mayor Martin Insaurralde, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013. (AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's opposition is criticizing the appearance around Buenos Aires of posters featuring Pope Francis greeting President Cristina Fernandez and a key political ally. Fernandez and Martin Insaurralde, the mayor of a Buenos Aires suburb and candidate in Aug. 11 legislative primaries, briefly met the pope last Sunday in Brazil at the close of World Youth Day. At the foot of the photograph are the words: "Don't be discouraged, don't let the hope be turned off. □"

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Study: Hotter temperatures lead to hotter tempers

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the world gets warmer, people are more likely to get hot under the collar, scientists say. A massive new study finds that aggressive acts like committing violent crimes and waging war become more likely with each added degree.

Researchers analyzed 60 studies on historic empire collapses, recent wars, violent crime rates in the United States and lab simulations that tested police decisions on when to shoot. They found a common thread over centuries: Extreme weather — very hot or dry — means more violence.

The authors say the results show strong evidence that climate can promote conflict.

"When the weather gets bad we tend to be more willing to hurt other people," said economist Solomon Hsiang of the University of California, Berkeley. He is the lead author of the study, published online Thursday by the journal Science. Experts in the causes of war gave it a mixed reception.

The team of economists even came up with a formula that predicts how much the risk of different types of violence should increase with extreme weather. In war-torn parts of equatorial Africa, it says, every added degree Fahrenheit or so increases the chance of conflict between groups— rebellion, war, civil unrest — by 11 percent to 14 percent. For the United States, the formula says that for every increase of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit, (3 Celsius) the likelihood of violent crime goes



0The sun sets behind the Kukulcan Pyramid in the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza in Mexico on Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012.

Associated Press

up 2 percent to 4 percent. Temperatures in much of North America and Eurasia are likely to go up by that 5.4 degrees by about 2065 because of increases in carbon dioxide pollution, according to a separate paper published in Science on Thursday.

The same paper sees global averages increasing by about 3.6 degrees (2 C) in the next half-century. So that implies essentially about 40 percent to 50 percent more chance for African wars than it would be without global warming, said Edward Miguel, another Berkeley economist and study co-author. When the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change updates its report next year on the impacts of global warming, it will ad-

dress the issue of impacts on war for the first time, said Carnegie Institution scientist Chris Field, who heads that worldwide study group. The new study is likely to play a big role, he said.

Hsiang said that whenever the analyzed studies looked at temperature and conflict, the link was clear, no matter where or when. His analysis examines about a dozen studies on collapses of empires or dynasties, about 15 studies on crime and aggression and more than 30 studies on wars, civil strife or intergroup conflicts. In one study, police officers in a psychology experiment were more likely to choose to shoot someone in a lab simulation when the room temperature was hotter, Hsiang said. In another study, baseball pitchers were more likely to retaliate against their opponents when a teammate was hit by a pitch on hotter days. Hsiang pointed to the collapse of the Mayan civilization that coincided with periods of historic drought about 1,200 years ago. People often don't consider human conflict when they think about climate

change, which is "an important oversight," said Ohio State University psychology professor Brad Bushman, who wasn't part of the study but whose work on crime and heat was analyzed by Hsiang.

There is a good reason why people get more aggressive in warmer weather, Bushman said. Although people say they feel sluggish when they are hot, their heart rate and other physical responses are aroused and elevated. They think they are not agitated, when in fact they are, and "that's a recipe for disaster," Bushman said. Experts who research war and peace were split in their reaction to the work.

"The world will be a very violent place by mid-century if climate change continues as projected," said Thomas Homer-Dixon, a professor of diplomacy at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Ontario.

But Joshua Goldstein, a professor of international relations at American University and author of "Winning the War on War," found faults with the way the study measured conflicts. He said

the idea of hotter tempers with hotter temperatures is only one factor in conflict, and that it runs counter to a long and large trend to less violence.

"To read this you get the impression, if climate change unfolds as we all fear it will, that the world will be beset by violent conflict and that's probably not true," Goldstein said.

"Because of positive changes in technology, economics, politics and health" conflict is likely to continue to drop, although maybe not as much as it would without climate change, he said.

Miguel acknowledges that many other factors play a role in conflict and said it's too soon to see whether conflict from warming will outweigh peace from prosperity: "It's a race against time."□

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Actor Dwayne Johnson leaves wrestling career open

JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — If Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson never steps back into the ring for a professional wrestling match, he won't have a problem staying retired, even though his last bout was a loss to nemesis John Cena.

But the 41-year-old action movie hero said he won't rule out a return to the ring that made him famous.

"I'd like to leave it open. But if I'd never wrestle again, I'd be very content with that," Johnson said recently while on set filming the season finale of TNT's "The Hero," which airs Thursday night. "Winning or losing never really mattered to me. The whole idea was to put on a great match. Got injured in that match. Still was able to walk out on my own, which I was more happy about. I don't know. We'll see."

Johnson's wrestling career has been in question after he lost his WWE champion-

ship to Cena in WrestleMania XXVII in April. He injured himself during the match, reportedly tearing his abductor and rectus tendon that required him to have hernia surgery.

He has plenty of other projects to keep him busy, having made the leap from wrestling star to action movie hero to reality TV host. He's also the executive producer of "The Hero," mentoring contestants who endure a variety of challenges to win over viewers who vote on the grand prize.

Johnson has become known as the savior of stale film series, and his movies this year include "Fast & Furious 6," "Pain & Gain," "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," "Snitch" and "Empire

State." But for the reality show, he had to make an adjustment dealing with the emotions from contestants as host.

"See what happens in film is everyone they're actors on a movie set, and we're making a movie and hopefully you make a good one," he said. "But in this case you're on set, well these contestants are not actors. And they're going through real drama and hardship and they're losing, they're winning, they're taking temptations, they're not. It's going through that with them and being that personal and close to them as they were going through that was really special."

Johnson along with Mark Wahlberg and Stephen Levinson are also teaming



This March 28, 2013 file photo shows Dwayne Johnson, a cast member in "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," at the Los Angeles premiere in Los Angeles. Johnson also hosts "The Hero," competition series on TNT.

Associated Press

up to executive produce an HBO show about Miami Hurricanes football player said the pilot will be filmed this fall in Miami.

"That means I'll be sleeping in my own bed every night," he said with a smile. □

Chaplin cane, 'Sound of Music' clothes auctioned

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charlie Chaplin's cane, costumes from the "Sound of Music" and a jacket worn by Steve McQueen in "Bullitt" have sold for several million dollars at an auction of Hollywood memorabilia.

The Los Angeles Times reports a cane from Chaplin's "Modern Times" went for \$420,000 at the auction held Sunday and Monday. That includes auction house fees.

Calabasas-based Profiles in History says the "Sound of Music" clothing went for \$1.56 million, including the dress Julie Andrews wore while singing "Do-Re-Mi."

The tweed jacket from "Bullitt" fetched \$720,000. A Dorothy dress from "The Wizard of Oz" sold for \$360,000, a polka dot dress worn by Lucille Ball went for \$168,000, and \$54,000 was the price for an outfit worn by (The Dude) — Jeff Bridges — in "The Big Lebowski." □



This Jan. 14, 2010 file photo shows Mary Lynn Rajsuk, left, and Kiefer Sutherland, at the premiere screening for season eight of the television drama "24" in New York.

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Fan favorite Mary Lynn Rajsuk is teaming again with Kiefer Sutherland for a 12-episode run of "24: Live Another Day" to debut next May on Fox.

Actress to reunite with Sutherland on new '24'

The network said Thursday at the Television Critics Association meeting that Rajsuk will reprise her role as Chloe O'Brien, the faithful counter-terrorist sidekick of Sutherland's Jack Bauer character.

Rajsuk joined the original "24" series in its second season and appeared in the second-most episodes

of any actor during the show's run from 2001 to 2010.

Fox entertainment chairman Kevin Reilly says he's stopped by fans all the time thanking him for bringing back the Emmy-winning show.

Fox says the miniseries will take up Bauer's story several years after the events of the final season, with viewers following his foreign exploits in real-time. □

Keith Urban returning as 'American Idol' judge

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Keith Urban is coming back to "American Idol."

Fox chairman Kevin Reilly on Thursday confirmed the return of the country music star to the talent competition.

But Reilly was quiet on who else would sit at the judges' panel next season. The

departures of Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj and Randy Jackson were announced weeks ago.

Reilly says the goal is to recruit "comfortable" judges and refocus attention to the contestants.

The ratings of "American Idol" sagged last season. It returns in January. □



This May 16, 2013 file photo shows Keith Urban at the "American Idol" finale in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Washington, Carroll 'thrilled for 'Raisin' revival

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Award winners Diahann Carroll and Denzel Washington will play mother and son on Broadway in a spring revival of the classic American play "A Raisin in the Sun," an opportunity that has left him "overjoyed" and her "thrilled."

"I think it's one of our most original plays and I think that's why it keeps coming back," said Carroll by phone from Los Angeles. Washington, en route to a film set in Boston on Thursday afternoon, agreed: "It's one of those classics."

Previews of Lorraine Hansberry's play begin March 8 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre with an opening night scheduled for April 3. Kenny Leon, who directed Washington on Broadway to a Tony in "Fences," will helm the production.

Both Carroll and Washington confessed that they were somewhat daunted by the prospects of an eight-show week. For Carroll, it's the first time on Broadway in 30 years but "once you're into the flow of it, it becomes a life style." Washington, speaking on the way to the set of "The Equalizer," said theater and film — with its 14-hour days — were both tests of endurance.

"While you're sleeping tonight, I'll be running around on the street of Boston so I don't take that lightly," he



In this Feb. 4, 2013 file photo, actor Denzel Washington, nominated for best actor in a leading role for "Flight," arrives at the 85th Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif.
Associated Press

said. "I don't think eight-shows-a-week is necessarily harder, but the energy I get from the audiences, you don't get that on a film."

Set in the late 1950s in a run-down South Side Chicago apartment, "A Raisin in the Sun" deals with the hopes and disappointments of a black family trying to find a better life in a white neighborhood. It was the first play by a black woman to be produced on Broadway. Hansberry became the youngest American and the first black winner of the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award, in 1959.

Carroll, 78, met Hansberry before the playwright died of cancer at age 34

in 1965. "She was extraordinary and I think that's one of the reasons why it is an honor to be asked to be part of this," said Carroll. "She faced everything with such intelligence and grace. She was dying when we met but you would never have known that."

This will be the second Broadway revival of the play. The original Broadway production in 1959 featured Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Claudia McNeil and Diana Sands, all who reunited for a 1961 film adaptation. The last Broadway revival occurred in 2004, starring Diddy, Phylicia Rashad, Sanaa Lathan and Audra McDonald.

The play's central conflict

concerns Lena Younger's late husband's insurance money. She wants to use it to move the family out of their cramped tenement apartment and into a house in a white neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. She also wants to pay her daughter's medical school tuition.

But her son, Walter Lee Younger, sees the money as a chance to open a liquor store and be more like the wealthy white men for whom he works as a chauffeur. He wants to make life better for his own son and pregnant wife. "I open and close car doors all day long. I drive a man around in his limousine and I say, 'Yes, sir; no, sir; very good sir,'" he tells his mother in one scene.

Washington, whose film "2 Guns" opens Friday and was recently a best actor contender at the Academy Awards for playing alcoholic pilot Whip Whitaker in the film "Flight," recalls the film fondly, while Carroll vividly remembers seeing the original cast on Broadway.

"It was like an out-of-body experience watching that group of people make this thing come alive," she said. She had always wished to play the part of Ruth Younger, Dee's part. "Playing the mother is not something I really thought I'd live to be," she said with a laugh.

The new production will also star Academy Award-nominee Sophie Okonedo from "Hotel Rwanda," making her Broadway debut as Ruth Younger, and Tony Award-winner Anika Noni Rose ("Caroline, or Change") as Beneatha Younger.

The cast also includes Stephen Tyrone Williams, most recently in "Lucky Guy," and Jason Dirden and Tony-nominee Stephen McKinley Henderson, both of whom were in the recent revival of "Fences" with Washington. Influential theater and film creator Scott Rudin is producing.

During her long career, Carroll earned a Tony for the musical "No Strings"

and an Oscar nomination for "Claudine." She became the first black woman to star in a non-servant role on TV in "Julia," the groundbreaking situation comedy that aired from 1968 to 1971. This marks her first return to Broadway since she was a replacement in "Agnes of God" in the early 1980s and she's already spent three months working on her character.

"I feel that most of us like to come back to the theater for multiple reasons — it is a reminder of what we can do, what we cannot do and what it is we need to address in terms of holding on to whatever gifts God was kind enough to give us," Carroll said. "It's a responsibility to that gift. Things like that come with responsibility and I'm not sure that I expected it at this time, but I think Scott Rudin is an extraordinary human being."

Washington, 58, has two Oscars to his name for "Glory" (1989) and "Training Day" (2001). His other nominations came for "City Freedom," "Malcolm X" and "The Hurricane." He won a best actor Tony in 2010 in August Wilson's "Fences," playing the larger-than-life garbage man whose dashed dreams of baseball glory have given him a rigid, embittered sense of responsibility. He had previously been on Broadway in 2005 in a production of "Julius Caesar." He and Carroll have met over the years and share a mutual respect. She calls him an "extraordinary talent" and he says simply: "Diahann Carroll. That's all you need to say. What a story. What a life."

"A Raisin in the Sun" is held in special regard by writers and historians. Playwright Bruce Norris' "Clybourne Park," which imagines what might have happened to the Youngers, won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for drama and the Tony Award for best play in 2012. And this year, British actor, director and playwright Kwame Kwesi Armah unveiled his spin-off play "Beneatha's Place" in Baltimore. □

Valerie Harper starts work on TV movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The UP cable channel said Valerie Harper is filming a TV movie in Canada.

The movie, titled "The Town That Came A-Courtin'," is based on a novel by Ron-da Rich and also stars Lauren Holly, Cameron Bancroft and Lucie Guest.

UP, which described the movie as an uplifting romance, said Wednesday it welcomed the "inspirational" Harper as part of the project.

In March, the 73-year-old actress said she's been diagnosed with a rare, incurable brain cancer but that she intended to live each moment fully.

Harper gained fame playing Rhoda Morgenstern on television's "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "Rhoda."

UP's "The Town That Came A-Courtin'" will air in January 2014, the channel said. It's being shot in Vancouver, British Columbia. □



This May 16, 2012 file photo shows actress Valerie Harper at the Friars Club Roast of Betty White in New York.
Associated Press

Stranded By Sprawl



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Detroit is a symbol of the old economy's decline. It's not just the derelict center; the metropolitan area as a whole lost population between 2000 and 2010, the worst performance among major cities. Atlanta, by contrast, epitomizes the rise of the Sun Belt; it gained more than 1 million people over the same period, roughly matching the performance of Dallas and Houston without the extra boost from oil.

Yet in one important respect, booming Atlanta looks just like Detroit gone bust: Both are places where the American dream seems to be dying, where the children of the poor have great difficulty climbing the economic ladder. In fact, upward social mobility - the extent to which children manage to achieve a higher socioeconomic status than their parents - is even lower in Atlanta than it is in Detroit. And it's far lower in both cities than it is in, say, Boston or San Francisco, even though these cities have much slower growth than Atlanta.

So what's the matter with Atlanta? A new study suggests that the city may just be too spread out, so that job opportunities are literally out of reach for people stranded in the wrong neighborhoods. Sprawl may be killing Horatio Alger.

The new study comes from the Equality of Opportunity Project, which is led by economists at Harvard and Berkeley. There have been many comparisons of social mobility across countries; all such studies find that these days America, which still thinks of itself as the land of opportunity, actually has more of an inherited class system than other advanced nations. The new project asks how social mobility varies across U.S. cities, and finds that it varies a lot. In San Francisco a child born into the bottom fifth of the income distribution has an 11 percent chance of making it into the top fifth, but in Atlanta the corresponding number is only 4 percent.

When the researchers looked for factors that correlate with low or high social mobility, they found, perhaps surprisingly, little direct role for race, one obvious candidate. They did find a significant correlation with the existing level of inequality: "areas with a smaller middle class had lower rates of

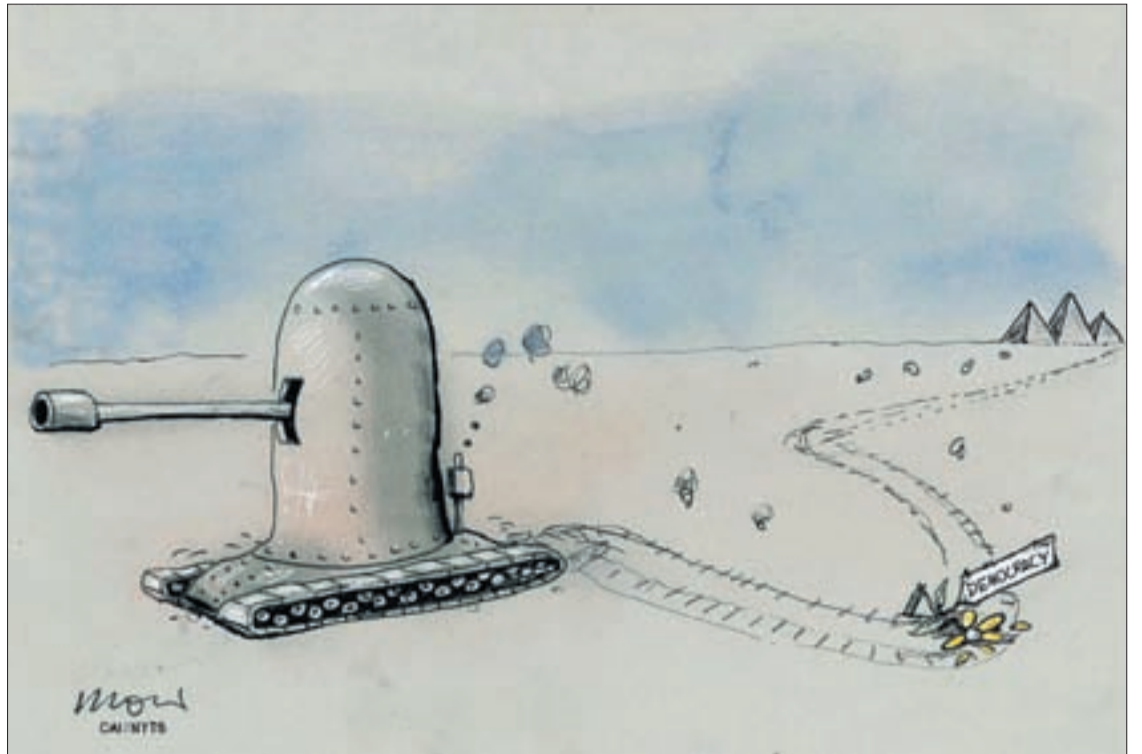
upward mobility." This matches what we find in international comparisons, where relatively equal societies like Sweden have much higher mobility than highly unequal America. But they also found a significant negative correlation between residential segregation - different social classes living far apart - and the ability of the poor to rise.

And in Atlanta poor and rich neighborhoods are far apart because, basically, everything is far apart; Atlanta is the Sultan of Sprawl, even more spread out than other major Sun Belt cities. This would make an effective public transportation system nearly impossible to operate even if politicians were willing to pay for it, which they aren't. As a result, disadvantaged workers often find themselves stranded; there may be jobs available somewhere, but they literally can't get there.

The apparent inverse relationship between sprawl and social mobility obviously reinforces the case for "smart growth" urban strategies, which try to promote compact centers with access to public transit. But it also bears on a larger debate about what is happening to American society. I know I'm not the only person who read the Times article on the new study and immediately thought, "William Julius Wilson."

A quarter-century ago Wilson, a distinguished sociologist, famously argued that the postwar movement of employment out of city centers to the suburbs dealt African-American families, concentrated in those city centers, a heavy blow, removing economic opportunity just as the civil rights movement was finally ending explicit discrimination. And he further argued that social phenomena such as the prevalence of single mothers, often cited as causes of lagging black performance, were actually effects - that is, the family was being undermined by the absence of good jobs.

These days, you hear less than you used to about alleged African-American social dysfunction, because traditional families have become much weaker among working-class whites, too. Why? Well, rising inequality and the general hollowing out of the job market are probably the main culprits. But the new research on social mobility suggests that sprawl - not just the movement of jobs out of the city, but their movement out of reach of many less-affluent residents of the suburbs, too - is also playing a role. As I said, this observation clearly reinforces the case for policies that help families function without multiple cars. But you should also see it in the larger context of a nation that has lost its way, that preaches equality of opportunity while offering less and less opportunity to those who need it most. □



Lawyers' Silicone Business Model



JOE NOCERA
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In the fall of 1995, as a staff writer at Fortune magazine, I wrote a story about the mass litigation surrounding silicone breast implants. Plaintiffs' lawyers had filed thousands of cases against Dow Corning, accusing it of selling a product - the silicone used in implants - that caused autoimmune diseases. Fearful that the litigation could put it out of business, Dow Corning filed for bankruptcy protection. The scientific evidence for the plaintiffs' claims was slim. Nonetheless, Dow Corning felt it had no choice but to agree to a huge settlement, which it did in 1998. Subsequently, the Institute of Medicine concluded that, indeed, there was no scientific link between silicone breast implants and autoimmune disease. Not that that ever really mattered. We all have experiences that shape our view of the world, and this was one of mine. Until that story, I'd always taken the liberal view of plaintiffs' lawyers as avenging angels, righting wrongs and helping wrest compensation for people who had been harmed by greedy corporations. But watching Dow Corning knuckle under caused me to look at major plaintiffs' lawsuits with a more skeptical eye. Yes, there are certainly times when

the court system provides the appropriate forum to address corporate wrongdoing. But just as often - more often, in my view - plaintiffs' lawyers gin up cases because, well, that's what they do. Like the corporations they sue, big-time plaintiffs' lawyers have a business model. Theirs requires them to constantly seek out cases that can be blown up into giant mass torts, as they're called, which can then be used to extract billions from companies. I've seen mass torts where the actual plaintiffs get coupons while the lawyers reap millions. Mass torts where the connection between the product and the harm is illusory. Mass torts built on fraud (silicosis). Complex litigation settled for billions even when the government implies that consumers are responsible (Toyota sudden acceleration). I've also seen cases where some victims hit the jackpot with a giant jury verdict and other victims come up empty. Or where a corporation really has done harm but pays off the lawyers instead of the victims. Over the years, I've thought: There's got to be a better way.

I know from the reaction to several of my recent columns that many readers think I'm misguided to be defending BP against the plaintiffs' lawyers who sued the company in Louisiana. BP, after all, despoiled the Gulf of Mexico and harmed the people who live there. It had nearly \$12 billion in profits last year, and more than \$375 billion in revenue. It both deserves what it is getting and can afford to pay the price.

But, to me, the question of whether BP can afford to pay is irrelevant. BP is the best example I've ever seen of a company that actually tried to find a better way. Immediately after the spill, it set up a claims process to get money into victims' hands quickly, without having to file a lawsuit. Though that process had its critics, it worked.

Of the \$11 billion BP has paid out in claims, \$6.3 billion was paid through that process. For the powerful Gulf Coast plaintiffs' bar, however, this nonjudicial claims process was anathema. The idea that BP could come through the oil spill without having to face a giant plaintiffs' lawsuit was potentially ruinous to their business model. So they sued. And BP, fearing the worst in a Louisiana courtroom before a judge who had once been a Louisiana plaintiffs' lawyer himself, settled - a settlement that included a promise not to contest legal fees up to \$600 million. The message is now clear: No matter how much money you are willing to pay victims, it will never be enough to keep you out of the courtroom. The lawyers are always going to insist on their "vig."

One of the things I find particularly offensive is that the settlement includes criteria that virtually ensure that businesses unharmed by the oil spill will get compensation.

All over the Gulf, lawyers are advising clients to line up at the BP trough, and they are doing so.

But how is this righting a wrong? Why is it appropriate to transfer money from BP shareholders to people who were basically bystanders and now have their hands out? When I posed this question to the plaintiffs' lawyers who sued BP, I received a lengthy statement from one of the lead lawyers, Steven Herman, describing a formula that, he noted several times, BP had agreed to, and even encouraged. He said that the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 was aimed at helping people who have been harmed "indirectly." What he didn't say is that the more claimants getting BP's money, the more money winds up with the lawyers themselves. Then again, he didn't need to say that. It's obvious.

After all, there's a business model at stake. □

The Hail-Mary-Moon: Relations And Save-Cations

It is a steamy summer day in the middle of vacation season, and the beach, whether on Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod or Sanibel Island, is packed. Couples - some a few years past their honeymoon but still sporting its glow, others creased from decades of togetherness - frolic in the sand, splash in the surf, slather each other with suntan lotion and toast with freshly mixed margaritas.

Which of these pairs are secretly trying to save their marriage?

Couples deal with relationship woes in many ways - from denial to outright war, and every fraught emotion in between. But for some, egged on by couples' therapists and travel agents, the best way to address a rift in the marriage, and to see whether it can be healed, is to take a last-ditch vacation, maybe a beach getaway or a road trip à deux.

For the lucky ones, it works. Just ask Tom Slook, 46, and Suzy Stauffer, 49, from Glen Mills, Pa., just outside of Philadelphia. In an 11th-hour effort to save their 20-year marriage, Slook booked a five-day cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, in December.

Sparks flew (the good kind). Shortly after returning to shore, they called off the divorce mediator. "We realized we wanted to come home together," he said.

For others, not so much. Humorist Dan Greenburg insisted on taking his wife, Nora Ephron, on an African photo safari in 1972, even though she said they would probably split. When they returned home, she asked for a divorce.

"But I took you to Africa!" he said.

Yes, she said, it was a wonderful time. But she still wanted a divorce.

Harriet Lerner, a psychologist and author of "Marriage Rules: A Manual for the Married and the Coupled Up," said she had noticed an increase in patients taking such "save-cations" in the last few years. She links the rise of these trips to belt-tightening in the wake of the Great Recession.

"A divorce can be much worse economically than going away for a few days together," said Lerner, who is based in Lawrence, Kan. With time ticking toward a breakup, troubled couples are planning one final, against-all-odds vacation in a desperate play to snatch romance from the jaws of divorce. Honeymoon? Babymoon? Call it a Hail-Mary-moon.

mission to salvage their four-year relationship. (The couple asked that their last names not be used to maintain their privacy.)

"We were absolutely in a bad place," Michelle, 30, said. Their travel agent, Dane Steele Green, suggested Iceland as an active destination where they would not just sit on a beach and bicker for six days.

between them. "We became like magnets - but right-side-up this time," she said, laughing.

On the plane back to New York, they recommitted to staying together. (Although, she noted wryly, "I still don't have a ring on it.") Lerner emphasizes that wherever the destination, at least one partner must have a genuine interest in salvaging the relationship.

That might explain the do-or-die vacation that Melissa Evans took to salvage her 12-year marriage in 2011. "I was doing everything I could possibly do to win him back," said Evans, 41, a corporate marketer from southern Vermont.

The couple checked into a sumptuous hotel in Cancún, Mexico, and spent happy moments paragliding, swimming and beach-combing. But as they lounged on an oversize cabana bed, she gazed at her husband and felt the connection between them evaporate. "It was one of the saddest moments of my life," she said. "I was trying to be as easy-breezy as I could on the trip, but my heart was shattering."

They fought on the drive home from the airport. Six months later, they separated. The divorce was finalized in January.

Indeed, these trips might be better labeled sink-or-swim. Karen Schaler, the author of "Travel Therapy: Where Do You Need to Go," took a last-chance vacation herself six years ago, chartering a 45-foot catamaran in the British Virgin Islands.

She and her boyfriend docked at the luxurious Peter Island Resort, surrounded by honeymooning couples and breathtaking ocean vistas, but Schaler felt herself floundering.

"The more romantic the trip got, the more I was like, 'Oh my God, I am in the right place with the wrong guy,'" she said. A few weeks later, the pair split for good.

And then there are times when a Hail-Mary-moon is intercepted. Jessica Chafetz, 36, a dietitian from Bellmore, N.Y., is still aghast about a last-resort cruise to the Caribbean she took in 2008 with her husband of seven years.

The cruise was booked a year in advance, but she and her husband decided to forge ahead anyway, in part because their best friends - a couple also having troubles - were coming. Big mistake. "My husband and my best friend kept disappearing together," Chafetz said. □



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(Celine Loup/The New York Times)

Jaclyn Sienna India, co-founder of the Sienna Charles Travel Agency, said that more than 10 of her upscale clients had approached her in recent months to plan a Hail-Mary-moon, a notable increase for her boutique firm, which has offices in New York and Palm Beach, Fla.

"If you can't get it together in the Maldives or Bali, then where can you?" she asked. Or, for that matter, Iceland. That's where Michelle, a graphic designer from New York, and her banker boyfriend, Joey, flew in November on a

The pair spent five days scaling glaciers, an ocean away from the pressures of home. Midway through a trail ride, Michelle, who had not realized that she was allergic to horses, began wheezing and felt her eyes puff up. Joey, 34, sprang into action, lifting her off the horse, rushing her back to the hotel for a shower and tracking down antihistamines.

Michelle said his gallantry, along with a mesmerizing night under the Northern Lights "and some Champagne to take the edge off," rekindled the magic

Also: "No nagging, complaining, criticizing or blaming," she said.

Hail-Mary-moons can have downsides, of course. David M. Frost, a psychologist and assistant professor at Columbia University who studies long-term romantic relationships, warns that these trips are often quixotic and can easily backfire. "It's highly unlikely that a vacation can be a magic cure-all - it might only be a temporary Band-Aid," he said. Even worse, he added, the forced closeness might cause relationships to suffocate and implode.